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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-94-179* *15 September 1994*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Qaddumi Blames Israel for Failure of Donors' Meeting

*JN1309131194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Sep 94 p 3*

[Report by Arlette Khuri from Paris]

[Excerpts] Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-el-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, has called for Israel to withdraw from the meetings of the group of donor states, noting that its presence among them is one of the reasons for the delay in extending aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas. In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Qaddumi, who visited Paris to take part in the meeting of the donor nations and the World Bank—which failed to materialize due to Israel's refusal to discuss investment projects in East Jerusalem—said it might be better for the Palestinians to conclude bilateral agreements with parties willing to extend aid, in lieu of working within the framework of the World Bank and submitting to the conditions imposed on them.

He said that the Palestinian housing plan in Lebanon was misinterpreted and that it is "a humanitarian action and not a settlement plan." He praised Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's negotiating tactic, which he said is based on al-Asad's solid understanding of the Israelis and of how to deal with them.

Qaddumi said that "political germs" often emerge when Palestinians meet with donor nations to discuss aid to the occupied lands "which lead to the obstruction of the dynamism of these discussions." He stressed that the Palestinians reject the "imposition of any political terms" and said that "those states wishing to extend aid to the Palestinian people should go ahead and do so."

He said that several agreements were reached with the World Bank, through which some aid is being channeled, and that the amounts, projects, and even the dates for the completion of these projects, were fixed. He added: "But we always find out that funds are not available, or that the donors want to introduce some amendments and reach agreement on them or discuss things with us."

He said that the main reason behind this lack of progress is that Israel is "part of this international consortium [preceding word in English]. Unfortunately, we do not want this Israeli presence, nor do we want Israeli grants, especially since the Israeli role is akin to that of a custodian." He added that if all aid is given up, "the Palestinian people will be capable of developing an area of 6,000 square km. Therefore, there is no need for them to disturb us with all the hurdles they are placing along the road."

He said that the Palestinians spent six months forming the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, PECDAR, so it can handle international aid through a higher body comprised of 14 governors, a consultative committee, a chairman, and deputy chairman. He added that six technical departments for research, execution, and control were set up, and that laws and regulations were drawn up for this council and the donor nations were briefed on them. He added that these laws and regulations, which were written down and distributed, state that "this council is the body that will handle and channel aid in collaboration with the World Bank in its capacity as the donors' secretariat."

He added: "It seems that every donor nation has its own opinion about this issue. In fact, there is no problem except the problem of donors who do not want to honor their pledges." Qaddumi questioned the reasons behind the delay "given the fact that the approved aid is in the form of grants and not loans." He noted that "once they give us loans, they can hold us accountable for the misuse of these loans. Imposing preconditions is quite unacceptable." He said "we are the ones who drafted the clauses on transparency and accountability. We also insisted on forming the board of governors, because we care to see every penny spent properly." He accused the donor nations of shirking their obligations toward the projects proposed by Palestinians. He added that "this is the reason why they reduced their estimates of the size of aid for this year from $760 million to $200 million, of which Palestinians have received only $6 million." [passage omitted]

He reiterated the Palestinians' eagerness to maintain brotherly ties with Jordan, noting some "negligence on our part." He said that what was included about Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement "should not be a reason for differences between us. Jerusalem is for all the Arabs, starting with Jordan, whose people are considered our people."

Regarding arrests in the Palestinian self-rule areas, Qaddumi said the police should protect the Palestinian masses, and the issue of arrests "can be resolved through continuous dialogue if it has no bearing on Palestinian security."

### PLO Said To Agree To Forgo Direct Aid to Jerusalem

*TA1309163894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Text] Nabil Sha'th says that the PLO has agreed to forgo any direct economic aid to Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Speaking in Oslo, Sha'th said the status of Jerusalem will not be resolved at this point in any case, and therefore the talks on financial aid to the Palestinian Autonomy Authority should resume immediately.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made it clear in his talks today with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian officials that Israel would not compromise on the issue of East Jerusalem. Peres and 'Arafat met this afternoon, and both described the agreement between Israel and the PLO as a big success. This evening they

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will both be attending a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington.

In an interview today with Norwegian radio, Peres was quoted as hinting that there were behind-the-scenes contacts with Syria.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Session Begins in Cairo

#### Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives

*NC1309183594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Cairo this evening from Sanaa at the head of the Yemeni delegation attending the 102d session of the Arab League Council, which opens tomorrow. In an arrival statement Basindwah expressed his hope that this round will be different from previous ones with regard to the level of discussion, the sense of responsibility, and achieving the required results, because the current Arab situation does not serve the interests of any Arab country.

He said the Arab situation must be discussed in a serious and objective manner so that we can establish an agreement that realizes Arab solidarity and prevents past events from recurring.

He said reconciliation must be discussed, especially because events in the Gulf crisis and in Yemen are enough to make the Arabs realize that this is the beginning of their end as a united nation.

He added that Arab reconciliation must be realized. He noted: We in Yemen extend our hands and open our hearts to all Arabs.

#### Jordanian Delegate Views Session

*JN1409181394 Amman Radio Jordan in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Report on telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo and chairman of the 102d session of the Arab League Ministerial Council, in Cairo, by unidentified Amman radio correspondent, in the studio, on 14 September—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] "At the beginning of the [Arab League Council] session, I delivered the Jordanian delegation's speech. I focused on conveying greetings from His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and people, as well as on their call for reconciliation, for departure from all causes of estrangement and differences, for enhancing the sources of agreement and accord, and for all of us to converge on amity and cordiality, especially since this meeting is held in a phase characterized by successive changes and great developments on the global level.

"Moreover, international groups are being established. The Arab nation cannot play a role, and such a role cannot be effective, unless this nation is cohesive. Not a single Arab party can win alone, so we either win together or lose together, God forbid."

Regarding the atmosphere prevailing in the meetings, al-Rawabidah said:

"Today, I was pleased with the fact that the atmosphere was conciliatory, and that there were differences only over the names of some topics on the agenda. The prevailing atmosphere was cordial, and matters were discussed with utmost responsibility."

Regarding the meetings he held on the sidelines of the session, al-Rawabidah said:

"To begin with, I, along with my brothers, met with the Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi. It was a cordial meeting in which we did not differ on any of the issues discussed. We were in complete agreement, particularly on issues pertaining to Jerusalem. In fact, it is one of our objectives to meet with most Arab delegations and discuss concepts about this phase and the future. We will continue our contacts with the delegations during the conference's short duration. I will meet with several fraternal officials in the Egyptian Government in this regard." [passage omitted]

#### Secretary General Addresses Opening

*NC1409134094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the only way to uplift our Arab nation and solidarity is to achieve Arab reconciliation through his initiative, which includes the basic principles for a quick Arab renaissance, noting that the circumstances and developments require us to hasten Arab reconciliation.

Addressing the opening session of the Arab League's 102d session here today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Arab reconciliation is a firm duty, something that is entrusted to everyone. It is the alternative for [words indistinct] and bases included in the initiative. He added that the road to Arab reconciliation is long and the first step is to prove the good intentions and [words indistinct].

He said: The strategic Arab option for establishing the just and comprehensive peace based on the principle of land in return for peace requires us to stand firmly and strongly with the Arab negotiator until security, stability, and development are achieved in our region. He added that Palestinian self-rule and the joint Jordanian-Israeli declaration are steps on the road to the just and comprehensive peace in the region. He went on to say that similar, urgent steps must be completed on the Syrian

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and Lebanese tracks, which will lead to Israel's withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and all south Lebanon.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Israel must understand that the elements of peace cannot be completed except with its full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and without the Palestinian people retrieving their national legitimate rights, including the right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

He called for providing Arab backing for the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] through an integrated Arab program that operates within the framework of the Arab League and that will lead to achieving the required development in the Palestinian territories and enabling the Palestinian people to cross from self-rule to establishing an independent Palestinian state.

He explained that he has called on the Arab organizations, funds, and finance establishments to pay particular attention to the issue of development in the Palestinian self-rule areas. He stressed that the peace process needs more Arab support for the PNA.

The Arab League secretary general then reviewed the issues and problems facing the Arab region and the great efforts made by the Arab countries to find solutions for them. He said that the most prominent of these issues is Iran's occupation of the three Arab islands of "Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra, and Abu Musa" despite repeated calls to solve the islands issue, protect legitimate rights, and find the appropriate solution to maintain the rights of good neighborliness.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid declared that the Arab League supports the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the effort to find the appropriate solution for protecting its rights concerning the three islands occupied by Iran. He expressed the hope that the Iranian Government would respond to the call to solve this problem peacefully and uphold the UAE's rights.

On the Libyan-Western crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said there are intensive contacts with the concerned countries, especially the United States, Britain, and France, in addition to the UN secretary general, the secretaries general of the OAU and the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement. He added that the aim of these contacts is to reach a solution based on the proposals contained in the Arab League Resolution of 27 March.

He noted that the contacts have not yet convinced the parties directly involved in the crisis, adding that the Security Council has renewed the sanctions imposed on Libya, which requires more efforts to convince the concerned parties that the Libyan suspects should be tried in accordance with the Arab League resolution.

He urged the Security Council to review its stance and consider the Arab League resolution calling for trying the suspects in accordance with Scots laws and before Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice so as to prevent the situation from worsening and increasing tension in the region.

Touching on the issue of the Kuwaiti and other POW's and missing persons, 'Abd-al-Majid remarked that the Gulf war created many grudges and damaged confidence that we will need special measures to cure. He said that serious handling of the issue of the Kuwaiti and other POW's, the detainees, and missing persons in Iraq as a primarily humanitarian issue can provide the credibility needed as a basis for solving many other problems. He pointed out that he had undertaken intensive contacts with Iraqi officials during which he asserted that Iraq's compliance with and implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions would certainly contribute not only to clearing the air in the Arab world, but also to alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people, who are experiencing a shortage of food staples and medicine. He noted that all the Arab states have on many occasions, reiterated their eagerness to support the Iraqi people and preserve Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

Touching on the Somali issue, the Arab League secretary general blamed the Somali factional leaders for the current deterioration and persistence of the crisis. They have to realize that no effort, Arab or otherwise, can ever achieve the desired goal unless these leaders agree among themselves on a formula that promotes the desired national accord, preserves Somalia's independence and unity, spares the people the hazards of war and discord, restores peace, and hence paves the way for rebuilding the state structure, 'Abd-al-Majid said.

He pointed out that the League is keeping up its contacts and efforts to speed up the calling of a national accord conference, either at its headquarters or any other place the Somalis choose.

Concerning the Arab waters issue, 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that this problem has a prominent place among the league's concerns, particularly since the Arab League Ministerial Council called for supporting the Arab states' lawful and incontestable right to international rivers, such as Syria's and Iraq's right to the Tigris and Euphrates and the Arab rights to the water Israel takes from the occupied and adjacent areas.

He noted that he has called on several occasions for an Arab conference to discuss this issue and develop the future strategy on Arab water security. He renewed his call for that conference.

Touching on the issue of weapons of mass destruction, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the efforts being made in response to the League Council's recommendation to declare the Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction can never achieve positive results until the world community compels Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and open its nuclear facilities to inspection by the IAEA. He stressed that

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Arabs should develop a common stance in preparation for the conference that will be held next year to renew the world commitment to the provisions of the NPT.

The Arab League secretary general said that preserving Arab economic interests in light of the swift international and regional changes requires greater cooperation and solidarity from us to build and strengthen joint Arab economic action out of our belief in the importance and virtues of group action in realizing comprehensive regional and national development.

He clarified that the new system for international economic relations is founded principally on the basis of large economic groupings. There is no room in this system for individual states. He noted that we have recently witnessed the establishment of NAFTA, the European Union, and the South East Asia League. This compels us to implement the Arab economic resolutions calling for strengthening economic cooperation among the Arab countries and setting up a free Arab trade zone in which Arab goods and services can be exchanged and marketed in addition to facilitating the factors for production in the Arab countries.

As for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that with developments in the Bosnia issue, particularly after the Bosnian Serbs rejected the international committee's plan and continued their aggressive war and bestial methods of ethnic cleansing, the Arab League believes the Security Council must make arrangements to end this tragedy and give the Bosnian Muslims their rights to defend themselves and their homeland. It should lift the ban on Bosnian armament at a time when weapons are flooding into the aggressor, the Serbian side.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Arab-African cooperation is witnessing noticeable activity, which confirms the depth of Arab-African cohesion. This activity also aims to strengthen the opportunities for cooperation between the two sides. In this regard he pointed out that the second Arab-African trade fair will be organized in South Africa.

On Arab-European dialogue, he said efforts should be stepped up to activate the various agencies. In this regard the Arab League Secretariat, on the instructions of the Arab League Council, held contacts with the European Union committee to activate dialogue. The two general secretariats, the Arab and the European, held a meeting in the summer. Participating were specialized Arab agencies and similar organizations and the EU committee and the objective was to boost the Arab-European dialogue committee.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid clarified that Arab media want to keep up with changes in the financial and national arenas and to use modern technological methods in this field to improve joint Arab performance and achieve cooperation and coordination in the use of space channels. Arab media would like to unify Arab action regarding the various issues, particularly in the international media arenas.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said in his speech that the Arab information ministers' council offered help to the Palestinian National Authority in the fields of culture and media by providing the necessary equipment to Palestinian television and radio.

He called on the member states to stop media campaigns against each other. He asked them to promote a new concept behind Arab media: Building a basis for understanding and continuity among the various parties of the nation in such a way that transient differences between them recede and the circle of solidarity expands. The Arab countries will be tightening the web of relations among them.

He noted that in March the Arab League will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Throughout its 50 years the Arab League has sought to reflect the hopes of the nation, because it was created, as is stipulated in the introduction of its Charter, to strengthen the already firm ties and links and to respond to the Arab public in every Arab country.

The secretary general noted that the Arab League has developed and is interacting with national and world changes. He said it has diversified and expanded its functions such that collective Arab action now covers a wide range of topics in the Arab world.

He explained that the League has shared the nation's happy times and has been a focus of pan-Arab aspirations. He also referred to the numerous crises and difficulties besetting the collective Arab endeavor.

'Abd-al-Majid declared: Our pan-Arab organization has held its ground on the difficulties and crises and is determined to surmount them. The League can restore its vitality, draw on the strength and resolve of its member states, and achieve an appropriate international status.

Noting that preparations for the Arab League's 50th anniversary have begun, he said the celebrations will be unpretentious but appropriate for the organization's status. He added that he hopes the plan for the anniversary ceremony will be approved by the members.

Commenting on the Arab League's financial situation, 'Abd-al-Majid remarked that he hesitated before raising this topic. Noting that the General Secretariat's financial situation has harmed League activities, he reported that he sent messages to the Arab foreign ministers explaining the serious consequences of such a situation, which has compelled the organization to freeze most of its programs and activities and close some of its offices abroad.

The Arab League secretary general urged the Arab foreign ministers to pay sufficient attention to this point so that the organization can continue to achieve its pan-Arab vocation.

He concluded his speech by saying that experience has shown that collective Arab tasks are varied and extensive

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and that faith in this endeavor rallies all Arabs around the objective of serving the nation's supreme interests and working for the good of future Arab generations. He added that the aim is to see the Arab nation adopt a unified stance on every issue and maintain an appropriate status for itself.

### Foreign Ministers Approve Agenda

*NC1409142894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Counselor Tal'at Hamid, press adviser to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, has stated that all the items on the agenda submitted to the Arab foreign ministers have been approved.

He pointed out that a new item concerning the establishment of an Arab court of justice has been added as part of the amendments to the Arab League Charter. He noted that this point will be discussed during the Ministerial Council meetings.

Speaking to reporters today, Hamid said that item No. 23 that links the state of Palestine with neighboring states until its independence is declared has been omitted at Libya's suggestion. He noted also that items No. 9 and 10 concerning Saudi prisoners in Iraq and Iraqi prisoners in Saudi Arabia have been integrated into one item. The name POW's has been changed to "missing Saudi persons" in Iraq and to "Iraqi refugees" in Saudi Arabia. The latter has not objected to the new wording.

Counselor Hamid pointed out that a fund has been established to receive donations to support the Arabization of Comoros. He added that the item concerning the establishment of a league financial center in Tunis has been referred to the Financial Committee and from there to the Political Committee for a decision.

The agenda has been distributed among four committees: The Political Committee, the Economic Committee, the Legal Committee, and the Financial Committee.

### 'Abd-al-Majid on Peace Process

*NC1409160694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has emphasized that it is high time for Arab reconciliation, especially in light of an Arab-Israeli reconciliation.

He said in a statement today that achieving peace does not only mean achieving freedom for the Palestinian people; it means everything that guarantees a better standard of living so that they can feel that peace has really been established.

He added that Israel should realize that peace cannot be completed until it withdraws completely from the occupied Arab territories.

'Abd-al-Majid called for providing Arab support and backing to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

### Qaddumi Addresses Closed Session

*NC1409142594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi made a statement at the end of the first closed meeting of the Arab foreign ministers today. He said that the Jerusalem issue is an Arab-Islamic concern the responsibility for which must be shouldered by all Arab and Islamic countries, although the Palestinians will remain the vanguard of this endeavor.

Asked if there have been any positive results now that a year has passed since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Qaddumi said there have been no positive results at all except that the Palestinians have entered the territories and more Palestinians are now returning to their homeland. He explained that apart from this the occupation remains the same.

Concerning the border crossing points, he said that the Israelis insist on controlling the crossings although this control should have been shared with the Palestinians.

Asked about the recent meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo, Qaddumi said: I have no information about the results because the meeting was held only recently.

Regarding the aid to be extended by the donor countries to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], he remarked: We are trying to arrange a new meeting with the donor countries in order to get assistance for the PNA.

He pointed out that the PNA prefers to deal directly with the donor countries.

### Resolutions Passed

*NC1509072094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Council has emphasized its full support for all the efforts being made to advance the peace process in the Middle East. At the conclusion of its session this evening, the Arab League Council stressed the need for recovering all the occupied Arab territories, noting that the Arab countries support these rights. Stating this, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, chairman of the current Arab League Council session, said at the end of the session this evening that the Arab League Council has passed a resolution supporting the Palestinian refugees in the

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occupied Arab territories. He said that the council also emphasized that Jerusalem is a Palestinian Arab territory, that it is the capital of a Palestinian state, that sovereignty over it is Arab, and that it is the duty of the Arab nation to confront any Israeli attempts to change its geographic or demographic features.

Al-Rawabidah also said that the Arab League Council passed a resolution relating to the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, another resolution to set up a ministerial committee to follow up on the efforts relating to the Somali problem, and one supporting development projects in the occupied territories.

On the Arab-African dialogue, al-Rawabidah stressed that the Arab League Council focused on this issue because it is a new area for work in the next stage.

On the Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and occupied by Iran, al-Rawabidah said that the Arab League Council supports the efforts being made to resolve this crisis peacefully within the framework of safeguarding the sovereignty of these islands under the UAE.

Regarding the issue of the detainees in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, al-Rawabidah noted that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has been entrusted with following up on and resolving this issue with the parties concerned. He will submit a report on his efforts to the Arab League Council at its next session.

### Chairman Notes 'Spirit of Accord'

*NC1409142094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, chairman of the 102d session of the Arab League Ministerial Council, has affirmed that the council's closed session today discussed all the items on the agenda and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's report on all the issues concerning the subject of Palestine.

Speaking to reporters today following the closed session, al-Rawabidah said that the council made six decisions, dealing, first, with sovereignty over Jerusalem, the Arab nation's duty to support the Palestinian people, conceding that sovereignty over Jerusalem should belong to the Palestinians, and conceding that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.

Al-Rawabidah added that it is the duty of the Arab nation and Palestinians to stand against the process of changing the features of Jerusalem and stop the settlement. He noted that this decision faced no argument by council members.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said the council decided to support the struggle of the Palestinian people to gain their rights, restore all their land, and establish their independent state. The council decided to provide every possible support to the Palestinian people, he said.

He pointed out that all the decisions that were approved today concern developments in the Palestinian issue, Jerusalem, and the ongoing peace process, which is based on international Resolutions 242 and 338 and all relevant resolutions. He affirmed that the goal must be to maintain the process to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

He added that the new thing about this session is the spirit of accord and cooperation among the members. He remarked that the points of difference were very limited and represented only slight differences in views. This reflects the early signs of Arab reconciliation, he remarked.

## Islamic Affairs

### Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 Sep

*NC1409111394*

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 9 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS

1. Reports, Interviews Criticize ICPD
2. Al-Aqsa Mosque Preacher Comments on ICPD
3. Iranian Delegate Criticizes ICPD Recommendations
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5. Writer Denounces Mubarak Speech to ICPD Conference
6. Six Islamist Prisoners Die Under Torture
7. Coptic Writer Views Application of Islamic Shari'ah

#### REPORTS, INTERVIEWS CRITICIZE ICPD

The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which began in Cairo on Tuesday, 8 September, is the main topic of this edition of AL-SHA'B. Three separate reports on page 1, totaling 750 words, are devoted to the ICPD. The first report says that "some nongovernmental organizations have launched a frantic campaign to ridicule Islam's teachings through reports and statements distributed to the participants in the nongovernmental organizations forum."

The second report says the Yemeni delegation to the ICPD withdrew from the conference after the opening session. The delegation's deputy head did not say why, but added that the conference had raised issues violating Islamic shari'ah.

The third report, compiled by Mahmud Bakri, says the Egyptian Government has received over 1,000 messages from various Islamic figures and Islamic and Christian religious organizations opposing the ICPD document. The report adds: "AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian Government failed to organize an international conference for clergymen this month to explain Egypt's stand on commitments resulting from the ICPD and to

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discuss the population issue in a religious and Islamic framework." The report indicates that big powers, led by the United States, refused to hold such a conference.

### AL-AQSA MOSQUE PREACHER COMMENTS ON ICPD

In a 600-word interview published on page 3, Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sa'id Sabri, a member of the Palestinian delegation and a preacher at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque, says his participation in the conference is useful for asserting Islam's view and amending recommendations that "violate the Islamic shari'ah."

He adds that he is opposed to abortion and sex education among "children and adolescents." He also notes that birth control and halting population growth contravene Islamic shari'ah and do not suit the Palestinian people's circumstances.

### IRANIAN DELEGATE CRITICIZES ICPD RECOMMENDATIONS

In an 800-work interview published on page 3, the head of the Iranian delegation to the ICPD, Mohammed 'Ali Tashkiri, answers questions from correspondent 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on the conference. He says the purpose of the Iranian delegation's participation is to amend any recommendations that contradict Islam and to confront the "world pressure to push through all articles of the document."

He notes that the document ignores religion and contains ambiguous phrases about the family. He says that the ICPD document is based on a secular view and thus has some weak points.

### BRITISH MUSLIM DOCTOR REJECTS ABORTION, LIBERTARIANISM

Elsewhere on page 3 AL-SHA'B publishes a 750-word interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Qatim, a British Muslim doctor who is chairman of the "Islamic Medical Society" in Britain. Qatim, who is participating in the ICPD, rejects recommendations on abortion and libertarianism and claims that "the main objective of the conference is not the publicized goal but the destruction of the Islamic religion by disseminating immoral values among Muslims after they are spread in the Western world."

Replying to a question, he says: "The Americans themselves told me that the United States was behind this conference and that it is the evil promoter of the conference mechanism."

### WRITER DENOUNCES MUBARAK SPEECH TO ICPD CONFERENCE

In a 3,000-word article on page 5, 'Adil Husayn denounces the ICPD final document and its recommendations on birth control and other issues. He particularly criticizes the speeches of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and President Mubarak at the conference on birth control.

Commenting on President Mubarak's speech, Husayn says Mubarak was expected to push Islam's view strongly but "unfortunately he contented himself with indirect mentions of virtue, spiritual values, and respect for heavenly messages."

### SIX ISLAMIST PRISONERS DIE UNDER TORTURE

A 60-word report on page 7 says: "We have received a message from prison indicating that six jailed members of the Islamic groups have died under torture." The names of the prisoners are published.

### COPTIC WRITER VIEWS APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC SHARI'AH

AL-SHA'B features on page 9 an approximately 1,400-word interview with Counselor Edwar al-Dahabi, a former government official and member of the People's Assembly. He concentrates on praising Islamic teachings that call for understanding and coexistence with other faiths.

Asked what message he has for the Islamic leaders who advocate the application of Islamic shari'ah and for the Christian leaders who reject such a call, he says: "I tell them first that sources of misunderstanding should be removed and bridges of mutual trust should be built between them. This means that Muslim ulema should make state publicly that Islamic shari'ah does not at all deprive non-Muslims of their rights and that they will be equal with Muslims in all walks of life." He adds: "I believe that if the Christians are reassured about the facts and the practical implications of such a statement, they certainly will not oppose the application of Islamic shari'ah. We notice that it is some Muslim extremists who provoke fear and mistrust about the commitment to equality under Islamic shari'ah."

## Palestinian Affairs

### Opposition Factions Reject PNA's Call for Dialogue

*MM1409110694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 94 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Three Opposition Factions Refuse To Engage in Dialogue With Palestinian Authority on Its Terms"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian opposition factions have rejected the call made by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the self-rule areas for a dialogue with it. They described this call as as a kind of a free propaganda to improve the image of this authority and a media maneuver worthy of no attention.

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Besides, it (that is the PNA) is putting scores of elements from these faction in prison.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT spoke to three Palestinian factions opposed to the authority's dialogue call, especially as conditions in the Gaza Strip have reached the point of a friction and tension there. Following are the replies of these factions:

Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], said: Hamas questions the seriousness and credibility of this call. It also draws attention to the fact that the PNA has since it was estabished in the self-rule areas made large-scale arrests among all opposition factions, beginning with Hamas, the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [DFLP], and the Islamic Jihad.

Ghawshah wondered: How can the PNA have the nerve to demand a dialogue while it continues to put scores of the Palestinian people's sons in prison? Everyone knows that, had it not been for their struggle, the PNA's men would not have been able to set foot in the Gaza Strip or Jericho.

Ghawshah reiterated his rejection of the call for a dialogue. He said it is rejected by our movement. And we cannot conduct a political dialogue with the PNA which is keen to implement the Oslo-Cairo accord and to pursue the mujahidin of the al-Qassam Battalions and others.

As for the DFLP, it described the self-rule authority's call for a dialogue with the Palestinian opposition as a media maneuver worthy of no attention.

Taysir Khalid, resigning member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Front's Political Bureau, has said that the national dialogue which the self-rule authority is seeking to hold with the Palestinian opposition is a kind of free propaganda to improve the authority's image, which has been badly damaged, as it has turned into a toy in the hands of the occupation, after it has begun to carry out the repressive tasks the occupation authorities and forces used to exercise in the past.

He added: "The dialogue call reveals once again the dual language this authority is using: While it continues to pursue an undemocratic policy, arrest those fighting the occupation, encroach on the freedom of the press and expression, and ban the DFLP in the Gaza Strip from holding the opening session of its third general national conference, it is making a call for a dialogue with opposition forces. He pointed out that anyone who is seeking a dialogue with the opposition should not exercise such practices. Citing the Gaza police commander's announcement on the Israeli television about banning the Front from holding the opening session of its conference in the Gaza Strip, Khalid said: "One is confused and does not know whether he is dealing with an Israeli occupation officer or a Palestinian police officer."

He added: "We are not going to be deceived by the dual language of this authority, and we will continue our struggle against the occupation and the settlements."

He stressed that the dialogue sought by the DFLP is not a dialogue with people who pursue strugglers and violate democratic freedoms. It is a dialogue among opposition forces in order to agree on means capable of putting an end to the undemocratic practices of the self-rule authority.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has also rejected the call for a dialogue. It said that the call reflects the dilemma in which the authority has placed itself. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, the resigning member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Front's Political Bureau, said that the dialogue call is not serious, because it was announced through Israeli television and because it failed to specify the political foundation for the dialogue and unity. It also reflects the dilemma in which the authority's symbols have placed themselves, the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian cause. It is an attempt to export its crisis after the uncovering of the settlement deal it has concluded. It is an attempt to conceal the practices of its repressive services and their role on the Palestinian scene. Malluh added: We in the PFLP and the DFLP presented a national salvation program. We believe this program, not the Oslo/Cairo accord and its devastating results, represents a political foundation for restoring cohesion and unity among the Palestinian people's forces.

Malluh said that his front does not reject dialogue in principle, but the dialogue should be based on the abolition of the conditions imposed by the authors of the Oslo-Cairo accord on our people, namely by backtracking on the accord, recommitting themselves to the Palestinian people's aims and national rights, by adhering to the PLO, its charter, the repatriation program, self-determination, and an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and by rebuilding the institutions of the Palestinian national movement on real democratic foundations. Malluh urged the PNA's symbols to rehabilitate its national credibility by abandoning the restrictions of the Oslo/Cairo accord by which they shackled the people before their call for a dialogue.

### Further Comments by Hamas Spokesman

*TA1409114394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 22*

[Text] London, QUDS PRESS—An official Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman has said that his movement does not intend to engage in any political dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat as long as the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] continues to fully implement the Oslo and Cairo agreements on the ground. Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah accused the PLO chairman of detaining opponents and said that 'Arafat is practicing a "one-man" policy."

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Ghawshah stressed that 'Arafat's recent visit to Gaza's Islamic University, a traditional Hamas stronghold, was "purely academic." He noted that the visit dealt with the university's demands, its representation in the Palestinian Higher Educational Council, and the need to increase financial assistance to it, which along with that of al-Azhar University does not exceed 14 percent of the budget of Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghawshah emphasized that the fact that the PNA has granted a license to someone close to Hamas to issue a daily newspaper "does not reflect any change." He explained that the application for a license presented by 'Imad Faluji was "a personal act." Ghawshah denied that Hamas intended to transform itself into a political party, but said that forming a party synonymous with Hamas "has been under examination for several months and is still being examined." He added: "Hamas has not taken any measures to implement this idea," and noted that the Movement "needs to evolve and examine further and clarify other ambiguous issues." He stressed that this "requires a closer study of the issues and sufficient time before a final decision is made on whether to approve this idea or not."

### Economist Blames 'Arafat for Financial Problems

*BR1409155094 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 14 Sep 94 p 6*

[Interview with Salah 'Abd-al-Shafi, Palestinian economist charged with managing U.S. aid in the Gaza Strip, by Pascal Lacorie in Jerusalem; date not given: " 'Abd-al-Shafi: 'Arafat Is Responsible for Financial Crisis' in Gaza" —first paragraph is LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES introduction]

[Text] One hundred days after Gaza-Jericho obtained its autonomy, the Palestinian economy is still having trouble taking off. PLO leader 'Arafat has constantly said that it is Israel, the World Bank, and the countries that promised to give hundreds of millions of dollars in aid that are responsible for the delay. Recently, he even said he had "lost all hope" because of all the promises that had not been kept. Salah 'Abd-al-Shafi, the Palestinian economist charged with managing U.S. aid in the Gaza Strip, totally rejects this indictment. In his opinion Yasir 'Arafat himself is largely responsible for the delayed takeoff.

[Lacorie] What do you think of Yasir 'Arafat's management?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Palestinian National Authority, presided over by Yasir 'Arafat, has not managed to establish the conditions required for investment. No legal framework has been set in place to lay down the rules for companies wanting to export or found joint companies, for example. The whole issue of exchange control is shrouded in mystery. In short, there is a complete legal vacuum.

[Lacorie] Are you satisfied with the Palestinian institutions?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Not at all. For example, there are four ministers in the Authority who are concerned with economic issues, not to mention the Palestinian Economic Committee for Development and Reconstruction. No one knows who is responsible for what, to the extent where foreign businessmen have to go directly to Yasir 'Arafat if they are to make any progress with their plans. That situation explains much of why our economy has been delayed.

[Lacorie] What was Yasir 'Arafat's biggest mistake?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Palestinian leadership gave the people the impression and created the illusion that things would change overnight. The results have certainly not lived up to expectations, and that is very dangerous since the Palestinians have been seriously disappointed.

[Lacorie] What could happen if nothing changes?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If the Palestinian institutions continue along the same lines, we will be heading for disaster. Everyone's role must be clearly defined. There must be a coherent global economic plan, and Yasir 'Arafat must agree to delegate his powers in the economic domain.

[Lacorie] What do you think of the attitude of the aid-supplying countries?

['Abd-al-Shafi] They are somewhat on the horns of a dilemma: They want transparency with regard to the aid they are going to give and they want a guarantee that it will be used wisely; on the other hand, they know that they cannot go too far and, above all, that they cannot do without Yasir 'Arafat because there is no alternative. They will therefore first have to arrive at a compromise with him.

[Lacorie] You are painting a sorry picture. Is there no hope, then?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The recent decision to draw up a precise budget for each ministry is indeed a step in the right direction. Moreover, we have many experts, engineers, and economists who have won their stripes in Arab or Western countries and who ask only that they be allowed to help in the construction of our nation. All we have to do is to let them bring all their skills to bear.

### PLO Official Views West Bank Issues

*AU1409145694 Mainz 3 Sat Television Network in German 1720 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Studio interview with PLO Delegate-General Abdallah al-Franji in Bonn by Hans-Ulrich Stelter in Mainz—live]

[Text] [Stelter] Mr. Al-Franji, 'Arafat said in Oslo today that what we have achieved this year is peace. That is a diplomatic expression. I think that in the first place there

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is still a shortage of money to set autonomy in operation and hoist the economy onto its feet. Has the world forgotten the crisis hotbed?

[Al-Franji] I think it is very important that we have achieved peace in this region, above all because we have lived in confrontation for so many years. On the other hand, it is much more important that this peace be preserved and that the World Bank and money-giving countries bear responsibility for this. And if they continue to hesitate to invest and use this money in the occupied areas, in other words the areas administered by us, that would pose the possibility of an explosion that is bound to occur if we fail to satisfy the people there.

[Stelter] This explosion would be violent. This has to be said in plain terms.

[Al-Franji] Yes. Peace has been established there in order to give the people there the possibility of working, living in contentment, sending their children to school just as other people do, and going to work just as other people do, and so that they can always find employment.

[Stelter] Three hundred thousand jobs are required. How will they be created?

[Al-Franji] I would say the possibility of work already exists there. Only the money is missing. We have plans for this, the World Bank has its own concept that might not necessarily correspond to the concept of the Palestinians, but we are prepared to discuss this. The World Bank's priorities are different from ours; the World Bank's studies are also different from ours; they made these studies in our absence, and they are trying to dictate to us, as it were, what we should and should not do.

[Stelter] Could this dictating not be interpreted as a kind of help, as if the region is obviously unable to succeed on its own?

[Al-Franji] You know, the Palestinians really are in a position to establish a new state. We have the capacities, we have the experts, and we also have the experience. The Palestinians have built, or rebuilt, most of the Gulf states. We have helped everyone establish states in that area, states such as Kuwait, Qatar, the Emirates, and other states. So we have the experience in this region, and we would like to apply this experience to our homeland Palestine. But what we do not have is money. We have no capital, unlike the Gulf states, and we have no money. We are dependent on this help, but that also means that we will return it in the near future. With this help, stability will be much stronger in the Middle East and all states in this region. These states are waiting for stability and an economic boom.

[Stelter] Is it also necessary for Palestinians from all over the world to return, at least business people who know how these things work?

[Al-Franji] We have so many Palestinians. I have been there twice already and I have determined that most Palestinians are eager to invest there, many want to go there and would also like to work there. Naturally, the prerequisites for this are principally in the hands of the Israelis and Palestinians, and secondly in the hands of the money-giving countries, represented by the World Bank. I do not wish to say anything negative about the World Bank, but we must reach a compromise with it and we must establish a common concept of how we are help the states, how we are to rebuild the infrastructure, and how we can simply send money there so that we can commence reconstruction. Until now we have done everything alone; so far we have only received small quantities of help for the police apparatus and for the security bodies, thanks to which we have achieved much security in the Gaza Strip and the areas in and around Jericho.

[Stelter] The status of Jerusalem, East Jerusalem, is the bone of contention. A conference of money-giving countries failed because of these contradictions. Do you believe in a compromise between the PLO and Israel there?

[Al-Franji] That is a topic of discussion. East Jerusalem was annexed; in 1967 it was occupied, and has been annexed since then. With the Israelis we have resolved to exclude this question until we have found a compromise over the next two years. But if we invest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and leave our brothers in East Jerusalem without help, that would place the Palestinians living there at a disadvantage, and I think the Israelis stand to gain more advantage if we include East Jerusalem in our investment and in the help that we Palestinians must receive. I do not think it is right for the Israelis to insist on having Jerusalem as a single entity. That means that they are dictating to us that the 165,000 Palestinians living there are to have an Israeli future, and that they have to have a unit in East Jerusalem under Israeli regulations. I do not think one can accept that, and I am in favor of us Palestinians and Israelis working intensively on this matter in order to reach a joint solution for East Jerusalem without any press or public work.

[Stelter] The relationship between Perez and 'Arafat is said to be good. But does 'Arafat still have enough backing in the PLO? There are disputes within the group that cannot be discounted.

[Al-Franji] When we say we are a democratic institution and that we are striving for democracy and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it means that we take this seriously, and it also means that not all Palestinians agree with Yasir 'Arafat's policies; and many Palestinian politicians working outside the PLO might have a different opinion from 'Arafat's, but the majority of Palestinians within the PLO and the majority of Palestinians in the occupied territories have decided in favor of this peace process and the self-government that we are pursuing.

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and they have also proved that they are on our side and are helping us. From an ideological angle, even the Palestinian opposition attacks 'Arafat and us in the occupied territories, but they accept our security forces, they accept our policemen, and so far there have not been any serious incidents between our security forces and Palestinians opposed to the peace agreement, and I think that what we have experienced in the Gaza Strip and the areas under our control over the past two or three months is proof that the Palestinian are on the way to establishing democracy in the self-administered areas.

[Stelter] If that is so, there should be no reason not to delete from the PLO Charter the clause about the destruction of the state of Israel.

[Al-Franji] That is a controversial matter, and it is still being discussed. If Palestinians have the opportunity freely to decide on this matter in the areas administered by us, that means that we, or rather the Israelis, permit all the Palestinians belonging to the National Council to go there and continue to live there. But the Israelis create the impression among all the Palestinians who want to go there that the clause will be deleted but that afterward the Palestinians should go back to the countries that they came from, and that is not fair. If the Palestinian members of the National Council go there, they must be able to stay there, in their homeland, so that one can say that their contribution and presence is a contribution to peace, and not the other way round.

### Gaza Court Jails Palestinian for First Time

*NC1409191194 Paris AFP in English 1827 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 14 (AFP)—A military court here sentenced a Palestinian policeman to seven years in jail for arms dealing Wednesday [14 September], in the first court verdict since the launch of Palestinian autonomy on May 4.

Judicial sources said the policeman, whose name was not released, had sold his M-16 assault rifle to a Palestinian civilian last month. The civilian was later arrested and denounced the policeman.

The first criminal trial since the launch of self-rule opened here Monday, involving three alleged killers of a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which is opposed to the autonomy deal.

Israel and the PLO signed the Declaration of Principles on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho enclave on September 13 last year.

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## Algeria

### Reaction to Release of FIS Leaders Continues

#### 'Free To Move Around'

*NC1409110394 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Algiers, Sept 14 (AFP)—The president and vice-president of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) officially said to have been transferred from prison to "another place of residence" have effectively been freed, the independent daily LIBERTE reported Wednesday [14 September].

An official statement Tuesday said Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj were released from Blida military prison south of Algiers and taken to "another place of residence" to promote peace talks between the government and Islamic insurgents.

However they were not under house arrest, according to the paper, but free to move around and meet and hold talks with whomever they wished.

The phrase "transferred to another place" was used "simply as a security measure," LIBERTE added.

Three other prominent FIS personalities released at the same time—Amar Abdelkader, Kamel Guemazi and Nourredine Chigara—were also effectively released, the paper said.

Madani, 63, and Belhadj, 39, were jailed for 12 years in July 1992 for attacks against state security.

The outlawed FIS has spearheaded a Muslim fundamentalist insurgency against Algeria's military-backed government since January 1992, when the army cancelled the second round of general elections the then-legal FIS was poised to win.

The two-and-a-half year insurgency, in which other fundamentalist groups have played an active role, has claimed at least 10,000 lives, according to an official toll.

The exact conditions of the FIS leaders' release from jail remained shrouded in secrecy Wednesday.

Meanwhile one of the Muslims expelled from France recently after being arrested there during a crackdown after the murders of five Frenchmen in Algeria said the release of the FIS leaders was "a good start" but "much progress remained to be made."

Djafar el Houari, speaking by telephone from Burkina Faso, said: "There are other leaders, other sympathisers, other militants still in prison."

"For us, there is no difference between a leader and a militant", el Houari told RTL radio.

#### Foreign Minister Comments

*NC1409200094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Boldface passages are recorded]

[Text] In an interview with MBC, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said that the freedom of movement that [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, President] Abassi Madani and [FIS Vice President] Ali Belhadj will enjoy will not transcend the national constants.

FIS has for the first time spoken positively of the government's decision. However, in a statement to MBC, FIS spokesman Rabah Kebir said that other steps must be taken.

The Algerian foreign minister stressed that the announcement by President Zeroual's government allowing FIS leaders to hold contacts with their colleagues is conditional on their respect for Algerian laws. This statement was made during an interview by MBC with the Algerian foreign minister on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo.

[Dembri] **The FIS leaders should respect the constitutional constants and valid laws to protect society. There is an agenda for dialogue. It seems to me that the goal of this dialogue is national accord on the future prospects of Algerian society, its political organization, and reelections.**

Dembri said that the release of FIS leaders comes within the framework of consolidating national dialogue in Algeria.

[Dembri] **The starting point was a message sent by Brother Abassi Madani to President Liamine Zeroual within the framework of coordinating the dialogue among the political factions in Algeria. I believe the ground is prepared for anyone who wants to take part in the dialogue.**

In response to a question on whether the Algerian Government will allow FIS leaders abroad to return to Algeria, Dembri said:

[Dembri] **This is part of the current consultations. Everything is acceptable. In a democratic system there can be discussions and accord and I believe that decisions may be made after an exchange of views.**

Dembri said that the Algerian national dialogue will resume on 20 September.

#### FIS Official Views Release

*NC1409205794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Interview with Rabah Kebir, Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, president abroad, by MBC correspondent Anis Abu-al-'Ula in Bonn on 14 September—recorded]

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[Text] [Abu-al-'Ula] After the release of a number of FIS leaders, how do you view the future of dialogue between FIS and the Algerian Government? What are the necessary conditions for beginning a constructive dialogue to extricate Algeria from its current crisis?

[Kebir] Thank you. In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate; praise be to God, may God's prayer and peace be upon Prophet Muhammad. I would like first to express our happiness for the release of part of our leadership and for placing Shaykh Abassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj under house arrest. We consider this a positive and important step but in itself it is insufficient. The president of the state should release the rest of the FIS leaders, including Abdelkader Hachani, the provisional official in charge of the National Executive Bureau, and the rest of the detainees. This is considered an essential condition because when it is met and the historic FIS leaders Madani and Belhadj can freely meet with the rest of the FIS leaders the idea of negotiations can then be broached and the conditions that must be met can be set. Thus the basic and essential condition is the release of detainees.

[Abu-al-'Ula] Is there a possibility of contact between Shaykh Madani and Shaykh Belhadj with the rest of FIS leaders?

[Kebir] This is an extremely important question and I believe that this one of the conditions. There must be contact among the various leaderships. In their message to President Zeroual, FIS leaders insisted on meeting with the leaders of jihad action and the leaders of political action domestically and abroad. We believe that the fact that both Madani and Belhadj are under house arrest hinders these contacts. It is alright as a first stage for one or two weeks in order to protect them. Both leaders must be protected under the current circumstances. However, this measure must be repealed so that the FIS leaders can contact all people so that there will be conviction that they are free and then agreement can be reached on the conditions that must be met.

[Abu-al-'Ula] How do you assess the future of dialogue between you and the Algerian authority?

[Kebir] I think it is a positive assessment to some extent, despite the presence of certain [word indistinct], who are trying to increase the acts of violence, particularly these days to hamper and embarrass President Zeroual in his endeavors. I think that there is a glimmer of hope that must be encouraged.

### Further Kebir Comments

*BR1509100994 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 15 Sep 94 p 2*

[Telephone interview with Rabah Kebir, Algerian Islamic Salvation Front leader in exile, by Ignacio Cembrero in Germany on 14 September: "'Neither We Nor the Authorities Have Any Choice But To Negotiate'"—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[Text] He still does not dare set any dates for next month in Algiers, but the tone of his voice fails to hide his satisfaction with the release from prison of his "brothers," the leaders and chiefs of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Rabah Kebir, the 38-year-old supreme leader of the FIS in exile, held a phone conversation yesterday with EL PAIS from Germany.

[Cembrero] How do you view the release from Blida prison of the five FIS officials?

[Kebir] I view it as a positive and hopeful step, but in itself not enough, because there are still other brothers behind bars, like the president of the National Executive. In addition, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, the two highest leaders, are under house arrest.

[Cembrero] Will President Liamin Zeroual take other pacifying measures?

[Kebir] We think so. Neither he nor we have any choice but to sit down and negotiate. We should have done it a long time ago. For our part, there has been no lack of gestures and proposals to initiate a dialogue.

[Cembrero] What will the FIS's objectives be in these negotiations?

[Kebir] The resumption of the democratic process. I cannot give any further details. As Madani said in his last letter to President Zeroual, it is necessary for FIS officials inside and outside Algeria, as well as our brothers in the Islamic Liberation Army (ALI), to meet beforehand in order to define our political line.

[Cembrero] Who is to participate in these negotiations?

[Kebir] The authorities and the FIS will be the two main pillars, but the other parties that won seats in the 1992 elections should also be involved.

[Cembrero] Will the violence between the Army and the Islamic mujahidin stop soon?

[Kebir] It is inconceivable that we could begin to negotiate without first reaching a truce. Madani proposed it and we agree that it will soon happen.

[Cembrero] Could the intransigent sector of the Army carry out a coup to prevent the negotiations?

[Kebir] Unfortunately, that is one possibility which cannot be ruled out. Liamin Zeroual is a man of good will, yet the so-called "eradicators" are trying to obstruct his actions. They are the ones trying to forcefully put an end to fundamentalist sentiment in Algeria. On Friday they went into action, destroying three mosques in a wilaya [province] in the east of the country. A coup would not make sense. What would it accomplish? It would perhaps allow the extremist military officials to gain some time. For the Algerian people it would simply prolong their suffering, and it would mean more bloodshed for everyone.

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[Cembrero] The FIS and its armed wing are part of the Algerian fundamentalist movement. The most radical Armed Islamic Groups (GIA), which claimed responsibility for the murder of tourists, have always rejected dialogue with the authorities.

[Kebir] When the GIA militants realize that this time there can be serious negotiation, many of them will join our effort and give up the armed struggle. So far, they have totally distrusted the authorities. Perhaps only an uncompromising nucleus will continue trying to win through armed struggle.

[Cembrero] Can a foreigner now travel to or live in Algeria without becoming a victim of an attack?

[Kebir] There will still be some upheavals, but we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. A little patience is still needed.

### Parties Approve Decision

*LD1409133994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] [Announcer] Following the state president's decision to transfer the residence of the officials of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS] officials from Blida prison and to release other members, the radio station contacted a number of political parties to sound out their positions on that decision.

Colleague Djahida Khelfaoui a short while ago contacted Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party [FLN] and asked him about the position of the FLN. This is what he had to say:

[Begin recording] [Mehri] We consider this a step in the right direction, in the positive direction which will enable the success of the national dialogue which, in our view, requires the attendance of all political forces. I believe this may facilitate the involvement of the FIS in the coming dialogue. We also hope that difficulties hindering the participation of other forces will be hammered out.

[Djahida] Is the FLN optimistic about the national dialogue meeting on 20 September?

[Mehri] We now have only a statement and we have received no further facts. However, no doubt this will have a positive effect on the coming meeting. Yet we believe that the issues are still complex. This is only part of the questions on the table and it is imperative for us all to work toward the attendence of all political forces. [end recording]

[Announcer] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS] did not participate in the previous rounds of the national dialogue. What is the party's stance toward this development taking place in the political arena in Algeria? Mr. Mustapha Bouhadef, member of the party's executive committee, replies over the microphone to Djahida Khelfaoui once again:

[Begin recording] [Bouhadef] We want to know whether this measure comes within the framework of calming [the situation] or within the framework of a secret agreement between the authorities and the FIS. If it was the first instance, the FFS supports the resolution and urges the authorities to expand the calming measures to include the leading parties and the civil society. For instance, we wonder today about the reasons behind the steadfastness of the authorities in the face of the strike which stopped the education sector following the justified call of the MCB [Movement of Berber Culture]. In the second instance, the FFS condemns anew the resolutions the authorities took which lack transparency, this is at the expense of the people and democracy. Within this context, the FFS says: No to a police state. No to a fundamentalist republic. The FFS is still calling for a comprehensive and real dialogue, a dialogue in which the grass roots of Algerian people are involved.

[Khelfaoui] Will the FFS participate in the dialogue on 20 September following this latest measure?

[Bouhadef] Probably. We will see until the 20th if there are new measures so that we participate in the dialogue. [end recording]

[Announcer] In later bulletins we will inform you of the positions of other political parties which we could not contact at the moment. We will, however, find out the views of the Algerian Renewal Party now from Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh who is with us in the studio. I leave the microphone to Maher to converse with Mr. Boukrouh.

[Maher] Once again we welcome Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party [PRA], after hearing the views of the FLN and the FFS on the positive initiative of the state president transferring Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj to another residence with the aim of facilitating the dialogue.

You had announced earlier that the last stage of the national dialogue was very positive and transparent, and you were pinning great hope on the coming stages. This is another initiative by the authority to be added to the response to the demands earlier. They were eight demands and this is another demand met by the authorities. What is your view on this initiative?

[Boukrouh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is the first fruit reaped by the people today because so many people were wondering what the parties were doing in the early rounds of the dialogue. This is the first fruit, and it gives indication of more good to come and we welcome it.

This step taken by the state president after the first meetings of the dialogue falls within the framework of the measures that should be taken to turn the dissolved

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party into one directly present in the dialogue. Since the day the dialogue started, the FIS was indirectly involved in it; today and after this measure, the FIS has the possibility of enjoying freedom to contact the responsible members of this organization and to take its first position which, God willing, is awaited by the people, namely an appeal to stop the violence. This is the first thing that concerns the whole of the Algerian society because this dialogue is not only to reconcile between the parties or is the concern of the parties only. It is the concern of the people. Whatever we can do in this dialogue is for the benefit of the people. Therefore, this measure, God willing, will be the first step.

[Maher] Thank you Mr. Noureddine and we will come back to you after the news bulletin, on the details of the national dialogue.

[Boukrouh] God willing.

### Further Comments by PRA Leader

*LD1409192694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Interview with Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, PRA, by an unidentified correspondent in Algiers—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] We once again welcome our guest and thank him for responding to the national radio invitation to converse on the issues emerging on the national scene.

The fundamental issue currently is the national dialogue. The platform that emerged from the national conference held in January '94 has defined the objectives of the transitional period and adopted dialogue as a means or one of the basic ways to epitomize the objectives of the transitional period. Naturally, the dialogue has passed through several stages. However, the later stages are different from the earlier ones, and this was admitted in statements made by yourself during the recent meeting.

However, the fruits—as you have said earlier in the news bulletin—and the parties taking part in the national dialogue have begun to emerge on the scene, and they are the ones on which the citizens are pinning great hopes for finding a solution to the crisis through which the country is passing.

The last fruit: We go back now to the statement issued yesterday by the head of state to transfer the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders from prison to another residence to allow a dialogue with them on the issues the country is experiencing. However, a number of parties are still insisting on their views, as we have heard during the news bulletin. How do you see the recent measures initiated by the authority?

[Boukrouh] There should be some sort of clarification. We have said that this measure taken by the head of state has come after the dialogue meetings, which we know. All the people were asking what the result of the dialogue was. The dialogue was and is proceeding along a specific agenda. The first point on the agenda is how to stop violence. The second is the transitional stage, and third is the elections stage. The dialogue was standing still on the first point. We were unable to make any progress. We notice that an essential partner in the dialogue—we regret that some partners did not take part. However, they could participate and were free to join the dialogue; yet they refused. This is one thing.

The FIS used to say: We cannot take part in dialogue while we are still in prison. This makes sense.

[Correspondent] This has been the request of the parties taking part in the dialogue?

[Boukrouh] Absolutely. All the parties taking part in the dialogue said that the FIS must take part in the dialogue. We must hear from it the real reasons that prevented it from participating in this dialogue. [passage omitted] A person in prison, as Abassi Madani had said, cannot express his will while he is in prison. Therefore, freedom is the way to express that will.

A first step has now been taken. They have not been released; nor have they returned to their normal lives like any citizen. However, this remains a first step that will enable them to get in touch with the other officials in the FIS so that they can agree on one stance, because there is a problem of representation in the FIS. There are, as we hear, a number of voices and sides speaking on behalf of the FIS. Dialogue requires FIS representation to be unified.

This first condition has, therefore, been met by the authorities. In exchange, we are expecting the FIS officials to take the other steps expected from them. Among these is the call for bringing an end to violence. This is the first condition to be met before they take part in the dialogue.

God willing, we can embark on the points on the agenda once they are included in the dialogue.

[Correspondent] Since this initiative is considered a positive step with regard to the leadership of the dissolved FIS, contacts may be made before 20 September that will convince them to attend the dialogue, as you have said. However, some parties refuse, for example, to sit down.... [pauses] Of course, the parties that are boycotting the national dialogue refuse to sit down with the leaders of the dissolved FIS. Can the contacts that are being made now, after this latest measure, convince these parties that are boycotting the dialogue?

[Boukrouh] There were three parties that boycotted the dialogue: Ettahadi, the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy], and the FFS [Socialist Forces Front]. The FFS accepted on this condition: For a long time it had been demanding the release of detainees, particularly FIS officials.

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The RCD and Ettahadi had a different view of the crisis and its resolution. They said that Algerian law and the Constitution must not allow political activity in the name of religion or the use of religion for political ends. This proposition is respected, but we hoped that they would attend the round of the dialogue and resist on the basis of these principles and their beliefs. [passage omitted] Actually, the FIS was present at the dialogue, but indirectly. It was sending telegrams and holding meetings with representatives of the presidency and maybe other people, but it was setting conditions before it would attend the dialogue directly. God willing, today these conditions are on the way to being met, and so the dialogue will take on a different nature.

Today we have made progress in the dialogue. The dialogue is not at an impasse as some people were saying. They said that the dialogue would fail, that it would reach an impasse that it could not get out of. No. This is the first result. We welcome it, and God willing it will be followed by other results.

[Correspondent] Do you have any information about other measures that will follow this one?

[Boukrouh] No. To my knowledge, there is nothing else. At the last session on 5 September, we were all agreed—the parties and the authorities—that the FIS must be allowed to participate through acceptable and logical channels. Then we would be able to bring it into the dialogue itself.

[Correspondent] Before moving to another point, there are a number of parties that have told the national media that they were categorically rejecting the participation of the armed groups in the dialogue. What do you think of this? Do you think that such a rejection will complicate the process of the dialogue?

[Boukrouh] Yes. The conditions laid down by the FIS leaders who were in Blida, in their messages—which have been published in the papers and read by the general public, stipulated the need that representatives from the armed groups should join them in the dialogue. This condition has been made.

However, I personally, as well as in the name of the PRA, cannot see that such a condition could be met.

Let us talk here with frankness. The Algerian problem is, in essence, a political one. Therefore, its solution must be a political one, through dialogue between politicians. However, it is the duty of any political leader and the political leadership of any party to try and resolve the problem of who is going to represent them.

Nonetheless, if Mr. Abassi Madani says that he wants representatives of the armed groups to accompany him to the dialogue, why should the authorities not also say that they want to be joined by their own armed groups. They could say they want the national gendarmerie, the national people's army, and the police to be represented at the dialogue. This is illogical. The political crisis warrants a political solution through political dialogue between politicians. It is now the time for everyone to shoulder his responsibility.

Of course, we do understand the dilemma facing the FIS leaders. They are faced with a real dilemma: If they call for an end to the violence, they are afraid to be isolated by the armed groups. They are even afraid that the armed groups might turn against them and that they will themselves be the target of violence. Nonetheless, it is still up to them to resolve the problem of representation. Here we have no right to interfere.

Today, however, everyone must shoulder his responsibility. If someone believes that Algeria is a state with a Constitution and laws and that violence might have repercussions, then he ought to respect it when someone believes in and shoulders his responsibilities accordingly, even if his acts might lead to a conflict within the ranks, as no one has the right to bring in whoever he likes in order to make it difficult for us to know with whom we are talking. Dialogue should, of course, be held between delegations; however, only the head of the delegation should speak following consultations with the rest of his delegation. The dialogue should be an orderly one, a well-defined one, and within the framework of the Constitution.

Therefore, I hope that the brother FIS leaders will be more sensible. They should shoulder their responsibilities today and settle their differences. A leadership should emerge. This problem was raised in the past. An example of the mistakes committed by the FIS that caused chaos was that we used to have somebody coming out and making a statement in the name of the FIS. Then there would be somebody else who would make another statement. This used to cause confusion as to who had priority or who had official status. It is high time today that they assume their responsibility and know who is who. The FIS should believe in dialogue because it cannot carry on believing in violence. Using violence leads nowhere. They can neither achieve victory over the authorities by means of violence, nor can they satisfy the people and gain their voices because the people are harmed by the violence.

So FIS officials should shoulder their responsibility. A first move has been made by the authorities. We are now awaiting a move to be made by them.

[Correspondent] Regarding the transfer of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj to another residence, do you think this measure was taken after the party had given up this demand?

[Boukrouh] During the latest session of talks on 5 September, the head of state discussed the possibility of this transfer; that is to say, putting them under house arrest. There is a political and a legal aspect to the case. Politically, their new situation will allow them to contact people they like to contact and to meet them. This means that they are already enjoying freedom. Complete release

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is another issue, and it could take place very soon if the steps expected to be made by the FIS become a reality.

I say they are facing a big embarrassment. There is fear among the FIS leaders. Some of them are wary and would not like to make any move on their own and would like all of the leaders to be involved. They should solve this problem. We do realize the impact of this embarrassment; however, this is their problem, and they should solve it.

[Correspondent] Will they participate as individuals or as organizations in the dialogue?

[Boukrouh] As representatives of an organization. Politics is not dealing with individuals. How? Look at the parties. [passage omitted]

If the FIS wants to return today to normal, peaceful, legitimate life, it must respect those things that are respected by all Algerians: participation in politics without weapons, without using violence, without threatening anyone. Then it has the legitimate right to return to political life. In other words, if you were a political party that was successful in the elections, and your rights ceased in those circumstances, today you have the right—which we respect—to return to political life. There are, however, no weapons in political life.

[Correspondent] Since you mentioned weapons in relation to the issue of violence, the sequence of violence, how do you think the sequence of violence can be halted? Of course the country's crisis—the bloodshed, the killing of innocent people, intellectuals, personalities—how do you think that this sequence of violence can be halted?

[Boukrouh] First, this violence will be combated by the security forces. This is a way of dealing with violence that has a history and is continuing on the ground. You should know, however, that this is a solution in name only. The security solution is not enough. We would like to save lives, people, and prevent material losses. In order to act in these areas, the political element must intervene. Those FIS officials in Blida took on the responsibility for violence in their latest letters. They said that this was what they called popular resistance. This is what is known to us as violence and is against the people. It has nothing to do with the people, apart from those who bore responsibility for it.

Those FIS officials must respect the people and respect their constant principles. In order to conduct a dialogue with the authorities and the other parties, they must bear their responsibility toward violence. They must make a statement, although this statement may not have much benefit .... [pauses] We cannot imagine that the violence would stop if the FIS leaders called for an end to violence, but it would become much less. The necessary separation we are awaiting will take place within the ranks of the FIS. Those who believe in peace, in the Algerian people, the state, and Algerian laws are welcome. Those who do not believe in them remain in the mountains, and the state will confront them with the necessary means.

[Correspondent] Well, with regard to the burning of schools, the educational and economic establishments of the state are being burned under abnormal circumstances in the country. Pupils now have to stay away because of schools being set on fire. How do you view this?

[Boukrouh] We have never accepted this entire phenomenon of violence, and we have deplored it. However, merely deploring it is not sufficient; it does not protect. We do not accept all this violence and consider it a violation and a crime against the Algerian people. [passage omitted]

The time has come for us to have peace of mind, once an end is put to violence. We have said that combating violence is continuing on the ground. The FIS leaders must shoulder their responsibilities at the political level. They either continue condoning this violence or just abandon it. If they are behind violence, they must withdraw because they cannot have it both ways and have two arguments. They must make a choice. This is history and responsibility, and we are awaiting these developments.

[Correspondent] In the shadow of these developments, what are the efficient solutions that the PRA may put forth to settle the crisis in the light of the latest facts?

[Boukrouh] Yes, we have submitted in each phase a document in which we summarized and detailed our vision for public opinion. Now, since the dialogue has resumed, we also submitted at the 5 September session a document that coincided with the agenda. However, as you all know, dialogue stopped at the first point—namely, at the way to stop violence in Algeria. The second point, which is the transitional period, and the third point, which is the elections, are easy.

Once the sides taking part in the dialogue are defined, and when they participate physically and each one of them expresses himself directly, we do not want to hear the FIS views from other sources, newspapers, or letters. We would like them to be present at the dialogue.

Once the FIS does its duty, which we are expecting from them and which consists of putting an end to violence, we want them to play a role in this. We are aware that violence is not going to stop and that it will probably still continue in the country for the foreseeable future.

As I have just said, this is once they renounce violence and pledge once and for all not to resort to threats to use violence against anybody. It is a foregone conclusion that violence will not bring the FIS to power. No one has ever believed this. Once this sorting out is done in the FIS ranks, then we start tackling the conditions of the return to the people's decision, that is to say the elections. Before the elections, there will be a transitional phase during which we will ensure all the conditions so that no one will fear the elections and no one will cast doubt on them. We will all take part in organizing them. This is the logical way.

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[Correspondent] If those conditions were met—the stable security, halting violence, for example—have you proposed a time limit for the elections period?

[Boukrouh] Yes. Yes. Regarding the first point, the halting of violence, we had proposed to put the leaders of FIS in a situation that will allow them to contact and meet others and to shoulder their responsibility. In other words, realizing the separation, what we call the setting apart. As for the other points, we had said that elections could begin after an agreement is reached between all parties to the crisis in the dialogue.

For example, this dialogue is concluded by the first of November, God willing, and an agreement is reached and all concerned parties sign it and abide by it. This is a proposal by the PRA, and we will not insist on it if there are other proposals. The proposal was made due to the special circumstances in the country. Six months after the agreement of all parties, we could go back to the presidential elections. We have put the presidential elections on the top of the agenda.

## More Party Reaction

*LD1409215394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] The decision of the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, which was announced yesterday in a statement from the state presidency, regarding the transfer of officials of the dissolved party Mr. Abbasi Madani and Mr. Ali Belhadj from Blida to another place of residence and the release of other members of the same party—Messrs Noureddine Chigara, Abdelkader Amar, and Kamel Guemazi—has been the most outstanding event in the political arena both nationally and internationally. [passage omitted]

So that we may know the stances of the political parties after the head of state's decision to change the place of residence of the leaders of the dissolved party from Blida prison and to release the other members, my colleague Noureddine Mousadek has recorded the position of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria which is explained by its secretary-general, Mr. Khaled Bensmail.

[Begin recording] [Bensmail] The Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] expresses its satisfaction at the measures taken for the benefit of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders and considers this a positive step towards helping to provide the conditions necessary for the success of the dialogue.

This was something which we in the MDA had been requesting for over two and a half years. But from another angle, although this step is important, difficulties still remain; there are still difficulties.

[Mousadek] For example?

[Bensmail] People still do not trust each other; trust has been lost after the events which have occurred during the last two years or so. Another thing is the crisis which has lasted for two and one-half years in which blood has been shed and there have been troubles and excesses. Despair has shrouded the hearts of Algerians and hopes have almost disappeared. We have even lost hope in this country and its people. These are the difficulties and this hope and trust must return [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Islamic Arab Rally issued a statement today which said that it receives the decision to release the leaders of the dissolved FIS with satisfaction and considers this to be a courageous stance worthy of praise and acclaim, a good sign on which the released leaders should be congratulated, and a real guarantee that a serious dialogue will be held between the parties, including the dissolved FIS and the authorities, in a calm, free and transparent atmosphere.

On its part, the Algerian Party for Justice and Progress receives with great satisfaction news of the head of state's decision to release some leaders of the dissolved FIS and the transfer of Cheikh Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj from Blida prison to a more suitable place. The party considers this initiative to be evidence of the sincere intention of the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, to explore the depths of the crisis, to overcome the various obstacles and problems and to quash all pretexts and excuses in order to make the national dialogue succeed. It expresses the hope that new initiatives will be taken which would include the remaining detainees, reducing the state of emergency and widening the circle of the dialogue. [passage omitted]

## Four Parties Comment

*LD1509031294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Immediately after President Zeroual's decision to put two of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders under house arrest and release three others, we recorded the reactions of some political parties we were able to contact. These include the Party of Algerian Renewal, the Movement for the Islamic Society, Hamas, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and Ennahda Movement. There are parties we could not contact at their headquarters; other parties chose to allow some time to prepare their reaction. These are the reactions of four political parties:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified representative of the Party of Algerian Renewal] This is a first step that was achieved as a result of the dialogue. It is a very positive step because it provides all the conditions for the success of dialogue; that is, is involves all the political parties in it to find a solution to Algeria's crisis. These measures will enable leaders of the outlawed FIS to meet and have a unified stance for which they would be accountable to public opinion.

The party of Algerian Renewal expects the FIS leaders to launch an appeal to halt all acts of violence so that the

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country enters an era of peace, an new era of dialogue. They should also accept all conditions of the dialogue, including all articles of the 1989 constitution, so that we could, God willing, embark on searching for a final political solution that would take into account the interests of all sections of Algerian society without any section feeling excluded from the political solution. All partners in the dialogue, including state and legal parties as well as the FIS, should then present the solution they would reach to the people, who would have to the final word in dealing with the Algerian crisis, and enter an era of peace, economic growth, and progress for everybody.

[Mahfoud Nahnah, HAMAS leader] In fact this measure taken in favor of the FIS's historic leadership is a courageous and great measure in such circumstances so that everybody could take part in the search for a way out of this crisis threatening Algeria. We hope this measure is accompanied by everybody shouldering his responsibility. We hope all the factions affiliated with the FIS accept the dialogue; we hope they will take part in it.

We also hope this party, which has been excluded from the dialogue, will attend the dialogue as well as other parties that have abstained from taking part in it. This should serve an important goal we are trying to achieve, which is providing the freedom for all citizens and all devoted patriotic forces so that our country emerges from the crisis with the least possible costs.

We call for the freedom for animals, how could we not ask for it for mankind and citizens of the one homeland and the one people within the framework of the constant principles our people believe in.

We hope that this measure is also accompanied by other measures regarding the prisoners of conscience, so that the happiness of leaving jail prevails among the Algerian people. We hope that by the time we celebrate the great First of November, all members of the Algerian people will be happy with everything getting back to normal, with the national Islamic forces strengthened in a framework that will serve the people's present and future.

[Unidentified representative of the Movement for Democracy Movement of former President Ben Bella] Our appeal in the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] was in this direction, and we consider the measure a positive step and a good starting point in the right direction for the current process of dialogue. We also consider it an end to the practices that dominated dialogue in its previous stages, and we hope it would be the beginning of the end of other wrong practices.

As Arabs and Muslims, we are now threatened by the world order, that is why Algeria should not remain drowned in its internal problems. We should find a solution to take us out of these mazes.

[Ennahda Movement leader Abdallah Djaballah] We are very glad with this courageous and wise decision, which came as a crowning of a period of national dialogue and a series of preliminary meetings between the authorities and active parties in the Algerian society. Together with the authorities, these parties have come to agree on a positive and efficient method in dealing with the current crisis—a method that starts with the issue of the conditions for guaranteeing the success of the national dialogue.

During the 5 September meeting, we spoke of the need to double the efforts to bring the main parties into the dialogue, including the FIS. Thanks to God it is obvious the authorities have stuck to their promises to make efforts. These efforts have been crowned by the release of those brothers.

I would like to recall that this was a main demand of our movement from the start of the crisis. We had called for an effort to solve the crisis through dialogue with FIS's legitimate and historic since the crisis of June 1991, and we stressed this demand in the beginning of the 1992 crisis. We continued our efforts to convince people in the power and other parties of this view. It was the first of 14 measures listed in the document we submitted to the chairman of the higher state council on 4 January 1994.

We do consider this measure a good starting point for a positive and effective dealing with the crisis in a way that would allow all parties to sit at the table of dialogue to discuss the most efficient solution to contain the crisis and bring about security, stability, and legitimacy. [end recording]

### Visa Problem for Moroccan Students Denied

*LD1409233094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Contrary to what has been stated in the Moroccan media about the administrative obstacles facing Moroccan students joining the Algerian universities at which they are studying, an Algerian diplomatic source in Rabat said that every request for a visa made by a Moroccan registered as a regular student at an Algerian university had been dealt with immediately and sometimes within two hours of the request being made.

The same source added that the Algerian consular section had up till now granted approximately 100 visas, that no request had been rejected, and that visa requests would be met in a normal manner at the consular level in Oujda and Casablanca.

The same source added that most of the Moroccan students were thus able to join the universities where they were studying. This was confirmed by officials of Royal Air Maroc. Meanwhile Algerian students registered at Moroccan universities remain held up in Algeria where the granting of visas has not yet begun.

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### State Decides To Privatize Tourism

*LD1409224694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] The state has decided to give up managing the tourism sector in order to open opportunities for investors and improve the tourism product in our country. A national committee for facilitating investments and a national agency for the development of tourism have been set up. Fodil Saadeddine has more details:

[Saadeddine] The minister of tourism stressed the issue of the privatization of hotel and tourist establishments. This has become more than a necessity after the deterioration of the financial situation of public companies and the weakness of tourist services in our country. In light of this, the minister of tourism announced the state's abandonment of the management of the tourism sector and adoption of the privatization strategy in order to improve the achievements of tourist establishments and set up a legal framework for them. For more efficiency, the minister announced the setting up of a national committee for facilitating investments composed of representatives from the various ministries in addition to the setting up of a national agency for the development of tourism. This agency will be concerned with distributing to investors plots of land in areas favored for tourism expansion.

With regard to the existing tourist structures, the minister proposed a number of formulas for their management by foreign investors or Algerians living abroad or at home who are interested in investing in the sector.

At the end of his statement, the tourism minister rejected the idea of selling the sector and said that the privatization decision emanated from the will to improve and promote tourist services so that they may go hand in hand with the developments witnessed by the world of tourism.

### State Addresses Shortage of University Lecturers

*LD1409110094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] In an exclusive interview with EL WATAN newspaper, to be published tomorrow, Boubekeur Benbouzid, the minister of higher education and scientific research, revealed his fear that about 1,000 university lecturers may not report for duty at the start of the universities' academic year, 1 October. The minister of higher education also stated that about 270 foreign lecturers have left Algeria. The minister announced the employment of lecturers and engineers in posts which have been created in order to cover the shortage resulting from this situation.

## Egypt

### Syrian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

#### Musa Comments on Talks

*JN1409120394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Cairo—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at al-Shar's residence in Cairo last night.

Talks dealt with topics on the agenda of the Arab League Council and developments in the peace process.

'Amr Musa hailed the main principles outlined by President Hafiz al-Asad in his speech to the People's Assembly.

In an exclusive statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cairo following his meeting with al-Shar' last night, Musa said that President al-Asad's speech was in line with the Arab constants and the clear Arab position on the need for Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, not only Syrian land.

The Egyptian foreign minister added that President al-Asad's speech emphasizes the clear Syrian position on the peace process and Syria's desire to establish peace, which it regards as a strategic option.

Musa emphasized that peace should be based on justice and full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and said this is the clear and decisive Egyptian position, based on the terms of Madrid conference and the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force. [passage omitted]

#### Al-Shar' Meets Mubarak

*NC1509101894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', speaking after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, stated that he had conveyed a message to him from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the latest developments in the peace process and bilateral ties.

Questioned on progress in the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Shar' said there is nothing new there. He noted that Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process, will arrive in the region 19 September. This will be followed by a visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher next month.

On Syria's reasons for rejecting Israel's recent offer for a withdrawal from the Golan within three years, al -Shar' said that full withdrawal from the Golan is one of the basic and essential requirements for attaining a comprehensive peace in the region. He added: We believe that the withdrawal must not take a long time because there is

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no reason for it to in terms of the small size of the Golan and the practical requirements for accomplishing this withdrawal.

Asked if a Syrian-Israeli agreement could be reached by early next year, al-Shar' said: We cannot speak of a specific time for reaching such an agreement. But if there are good intentions on the Israeli side, tangible and substantial progress could be made in the coming months. However, if intentions are not good, the issue may take more time, which would make it difficult to speculate when substantial and tangible progress on the Syrian-Israeli track could take place.

Asked his views regarding Israel's constant demand to upgrade the level of the delegations to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, al- Shar' said: We believe that the basic issues must be discussed among the official delegations that took part in the Washington talks, which could continue. The U.S. side, led by Christopher and his aide Dennis Ross, is doing what it is required to do in terms of conveying Syria's views to the Israeli side and informing us of the Israeli ideas. This enables the U.S. side to play an active role in bringing views closer. Al-Shar' stressed that the gap in views remains wide.

Regarding Israel's views that the time set for withdrawal from the Golan would be a test of goodwill, al-Shar' said: If we review the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict we will find that it is the Arab side that needs to test Israel's goodwill in turning from a state of aggression and war to a state of peace and in terminating the hostility between the Arabs and the Israelis. He added: It is we who need to test Israeli intentions, not the other way around.

### Lebanon's Buwayz Meets Mubarak, Views Peace Talks

*NC1509104894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Sep (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said they had discussed the latest developments in the region's peace process.

He added that progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track is still facing obstacles resulting from ambiguous Israeli proposals on a full withdrawal from south Lebanon to the internationally recognized borders. He continued: We believe a withdrawal must be complete, to the other side of the border, and that it should enable the Lebanese state to exercise full authority over all the territories to be evacuated. In other words, the withdrawal must only serve the interest of the legitimate Lebanese authorities.

He noted that Egypt under President Husni Mubarak's leadership has an essential and fundamental role in light of its weight and influence at the Arab and world levels and that this role may resolve many issues. He added: Therefore we briefed the president today on the details of the ongoing negotiations and conveyed to his excellency an oral message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Buwayz was asked whether there is any connection between the progress of talks on the Lebanese-Israeli and the Syrian-Israeli tracks. He replied: Of course there is. Basically we want the peace to be comprehensive and this means that peace must be achieved with all Arabs. He added: Proceeding from this standpoint, we believe that this peace has a general aspect involving the nature of relations and their requirements, and that this can only be decided through Arab coordination and solidarity and other aspects concerning each individual country.

He went on: In Lebanon's case, for example, we believe that talks on the ways and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the south are Lebanon's concern. But we deal with the potential peace and its requirements in coordination and consultation with most of the Arab parties, including Syria.

Buwayz was also asked about the connection between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and whether progress on the Syrian track will be followed by progress on the Lebanese track. He said: I don't think this is a race. In any case we believe that either we should have a comprehensive peace or none at all, and hence it is in no one's interest to be ahead by one or two weeks or months.

He added: We believe that mutual trust in these negotiations is better and more important than competing with each other. We attach more importance to the substance, viability, and quality of this peace and even greater importance to our people's peaceful intentions than to any regime's easy defense of such a peace.

### Jordanian Minister Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

*NC1509100994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Sep (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Jordanian Education Minister 'Abd-al- Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said he conveyed to the president the greetings of his brother King Husayn of Jordan and his country's appreciation of the Egyptian stands on all Arab causes and bilateral cooperation.

He added that he briefed President Mubarak on the current meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo and that he exchanged views with the president on several issues. He said he listened to the president's enlightened views [words indistinct] these issues.

He said Egyptian-Jordanian relations are currently at their best and that ties between President Mubarak and King Husayn are characterized by mutual goodwill and respect. He affirmed that bilateral cooperation between the two countries is very good.

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### Editor Rejects Reconciliation With Iraq Under Saddam

*NC1409171194 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 1*

[Article by chief editor Mursi 'Atallah: "Baghdad Will Not Have Long To Wait"]

[Text] While delegates from all over the world were in Cairo, while international television networks and other media were extolling Egypt's virtues, and while everyone agreed on Egypt's lofty status ensured by its president's wise policies, some mice who had been locked up in the trap of defeat in Baghdad came to the fore and began spouting all kinds of verbal abuse against President Mubarak.

Is it not both sad and ridiculous for the big mouse to give orders to the little mice to be rude to the man who never offered them anything except sincere advice? It was advice they stubbornly ignored until they rubbed our Arab heads and dignity in the dust. Their stubbornness ended in a crushing defeat illustrated by the sight of their stalwart soldiers bending in total humility and disgrace to kiss the allied forces' feet and boots during the Kuwait war of liberation.

It is now both painful and astonishing for the priest of defeat to lead a campaign of abuse against the very man on whom the Iraqi people pinned their hopes of ending their ordeal of isolation and siege and the Arab and international contempt for them.

We cannot believe—no one can—that one single word is published in any Baghdad newspaper before it is screened by the purveyor of calamities for his nation and homeland.

We are certain—and all the world knows it—that Baghdad's viper loves to spew venom, coil himself up inside a hole, and associate only with other vipers and vermin.

We know very well the hate and envy which the tyrant harbors in his heart. We know that he hates to hear of a stable country enjoying economic growth and building up a free democratic system because these things are anathema to his despotic, oppressive nature.

The published words, signed by a black rat who they claim is chief editor of the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, prove that this deranged person is still smothering the Iraqis with his presence and has not learned his lesson or accepted the facts.

Those who insistently urge Egypt and its president to use their good offices to end the disputes and return Iraq to the Arab fold must abandon this meaningless, unacceptable quest and turn their attention to the Iraqi people who must shoulder the responsibility of ridding themselves of the obstacle that stands between them and the world and the other Arabs.

Until the affliction passes and the father of defeats meets his downfall with his ignorant, hypocritical clique, the Egyptian people must do no more than pray for the Iraqi people's release from their ordeal. Only they can do it.

Only then will our hearts, feelings, and resources be placed at the service of a new Iraq that can manage to be Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian in the full sense of the word.

I believe we will not have long to wait.

## Shootings, Other Security Incidents Reported

### 'Dangerous Terrorist' Killed

*NC1309210994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—State security intelligence forces today killed a dangerous terrorist and captured two others involved in the killing of Major General Ra'uf Khayrat.

A security source said tonight that security sources collected information on the whereabouts of terrorist Yasir Sidqi Ahmad Musa, the main accomplice in the assassination of Maj. Gen. Khayrat. Musa is wanted in connection with Case No. 235/94 in the High State Security Prosecution.

When state security intelligence forces, accompanied by antiterror forces, raided the terrorist's hideout in Imbabah, they were fired at. They returned the fire, killing terrorist Yasir Sidqi Ahmad Musa. His revolver was seized.

The forces continued their mission, raiding other hideouts [words indistinct] martyr Ra'uf Khayrat.

The suspect was slightly hurt when he tried to escape arrest.

The forces also captured terrorist Sayyid 'Abd-al-Zahir Hasan, wanted in connection with Case No. 235/94. Organizational papers and sketches of the movements of some personalities were found in his possession.

### Gunmen Kill Police Sentry

*NC1409141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—A police sentry was martyred and another was wounded at a traffic checkpoint near the village of al-Ma'sarah early this morning by unidentified gunmen, who fled after firing.

MENA has learned that the sentry, Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Dayim, and his colleague were performing their job of guarding the checkpoint that lies on the main road between Cairo and Upper Egypt.

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The security forces cordoned the area and began a search, while the prosecutions office launched an investigation.

### Gun Battle at Mosque

*NC1509094794 Paris AFP in English 0652 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, Sept 15 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic militants shot dead a policeman and wounded four other people in a mosque in southern Egypt, the official news agency MENA reported Thursday [15 September].

The shooting broke out Wednesday when police tried to hand over a mosque to government-appointed shaykhs in Salamun village of Suhaj Province, about 500 kilometers (300 miles) south of Cairo.

MENA said the mosque had fallen into the hands of "terrorist elements."

The handover came as part of government plans announced earlier this year to place mosques in southern Egypt under government control, to curb the influence of Islamic militants.

When the police entered the Mosque of the Martyr Husni Badawi, the militants opened fire, killing Ahmad Husayn. Three other policemen and a civilian were wounded, before the gunmen fled.

Militants control many mosques in southern Egypt and use them as recruitment centers in a battle against the secular government that has claimed more than 400 lives since March 1992, police said.

## Libya

### Report Cites 'Direct' U.S.-Libyan Contacts

*JN1509103794 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Sep 94 p 26*

[Text] Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD—In statements to AL-ITTIHAD, diplomatic sources at the America Desk at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry disclosed that direct contacts between the U.S. Administration and Libya have begun for the first time since 1981. The contacts were held for three days in an attempt to examine positions.

These contacts were held on the basis of a proposal presented by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to U.S. Vice President Al Gore during their meeting in Cairo 6 September on the sidelines of the international population conference.

The sources said Al Gore had promised President Mubarak to convey the Egyptian proposal—which was originally a Libyan proposal—to U.S. President Bill Clinton in a message he sent to the Egyptian president four days before the population conference began, when Al Gore's participation in the conference was confirmed.

So far, the contacts were held twice. Washington asked, through Italy, for Libyan guarantees to end the Lockerbie crisis in accordance with the U.S. demands of trying the two suspects and paying compensation to the families of the victims of that incident.

The sources added that Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir summoned a European ambassador to the Jamahiriyah—the Italian or Belgian ambassador—and handed him an urgent message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to President Clinton on Libyan guarantees to end the Lockerbie crisis.

The sources said that a few hours after the message was presented Libya informed Egypt of the contents of the message and the current moves and contacts in order to keep Egypt abreast of the situation and to ensure the continuation of Egyptian efforts.

AL-ITTIHAD learned that in his urgent message, al-Qadhdhafi informed Clinton of Libya's agreement to try the two suspects anywhere in the world except Washington. The message also deals with the need to provide security protection for the two suspects and not to employ any pressures on them to force them to confess of committing crimes they did not commit. The message also expressed Libya's acceptance of any conditions set by Washington on establishing dialogue and bilateral normal relations. It also calls for intervention with the Security Council to lift the siege imposed on the Jamahiriyah. In return, Libya will pay compensation for the families of Lockerbie's victims as demanded by Washington, open Libyan markets for U.S. exports, and give U.S. oil and mining companies the right to explore for Libyan oil through contracts for more than 20 years, and probably for 50 years, which include many concessions. Libya will also depend on U.S. companies in the development and construction efforts.

In his message, al-Qadhdhafi stressed the need for the United States to reply to the Libyan proposals in accordance with the formula acceptable to Washington, and said Libya is prepared to receive any U.S. delegation as a prelude to opening direct dialogue.

### Committee Refuses Support for PLO-Israeli Pact

*LD1509013094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] An authoritative source at the General People's Committee for Unity has stated the following: Media organs have attributed to [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. Ismat Abd al-Majid a call for Arab countries to support the so-called limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

We have trust in the brother secretary general's principled stance and appreciate his assertions before the League's Council that the agreement on limited self-rule would not bring about peace, as it did not meet revolve around the Palestinian people's legitimate national

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rights, including its right to its own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

What has taken place between the Fatah Movement and the Israelis has nothing to do with peace and therefore no one should support it, particularly since it has become evident that the Israeli enemy has realized, thanks to such a deal, dangerous aims that would have negative repercussions on the future of the Palestinian cause and the whole of the Arab nation as an entity, for the Palestinian gun has become part of the Israeli security and the Gaza municipality has become part of the Israeli occupying authorities.

Furthermore, the recent agreement in Oslo has linked the Palestinian economy to the Israeli economy to meet the conditions laid down by Western powers, to consolidate the Israeli occupation of Palestine, to expand the settlements in the occupied territories by settling there thousands of Jewish immigrants, and to claim Jerusalem as their eternal capital.

What has been taking place is a serious step to the destruction of the Arab entity and its replacement with regional forms. No one should urge their consolidation, rather they should be confronted. Moreover, the Arab boycott of the Israeli enemy and of those who have been cooperating with it should always remain a legitimate right of the Arab nation in its strategy of confrontation.

The Palestinian people have, through their struggle and suffering, rejected the agreement of surrender signed by 'Arafat in Washington by stepping up its popular intifadah and its confrontation with the Israeli enemy.

## Morocco

### Armed Men in Algerian Uniforms Attack Village

*LD1409134894 Rabat MAP in English 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 14 (MAP)—A group of armed men wearing uniforms of Algerian border-guards, infiltrated Monday night a village in the province of Jerada (eastern Morocco, borders with Algeria) and attacked inhabitants there, reports Moroccan 'L'OPINION' daily. Fortunately, they made no victims, according to the same source which adds that Moroccan border guards interfered and compelled the assailants to escape.

Algerian authorities decided last August 28 to close all its land borders with Morocco and impose entry visa requirement following the Moroccan decision to asks Algerians wishing to enter Morocco for a visa. The Moroccan decision was taken after an armed attack against a hotel in Marrakech and the killing of two Spanish tourists. Several Algerians or Algerian-French nationals were arrested in connection with the Marrakech attack both in Morocco and in France.

### Ministry Denies Coordination With Tunisia on Expulsions

*LD1509130894 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 15 (MAP)—An official source at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation denied Tunisian sayings that the repatriation of 190 Moroccans from Tunisia was made in coordination with the Moroccan Embassy in Tunis.

Moroccan authorities say the Tunisians acted unilaterally and without consulting with the Moroccan Embassy when they decided to expel 190 Moroccans presented as 'illegal residents'. The source said Morocco dispatched a car-ferry to the port of Tunis to repatriate some 500 Moroccans coming from Libya and Tunisia and who were blocked following the Algerian decision to close its land borders with Morocco.

The Moroccan authorities said they were surprised by the Tunisian decision to embark on the car-ferry 190 Moroccans while its capacity does not exceed 470 passengers.

### King Hassan Holds Talks With UAE President

*LD1509140694 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Fes, Sept. 15 (MAP)—King Hassan II held tete-a-tete talks here Wednesday [14 September] with President of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Shaykh Zayid who is on a private visit to Morocco since Sept. 8 arrived in Fes, coming from Rabat, earlier in the day. He was greeted at the Fes-Le Sais Airport by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed.

## Sudan

### U.S. Envoy Reiterates Terrorism Charge; 'No Proof'

*EA1409192894 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] The foreign minister, Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, received the American ambassador to Sudan at the latter's request. During the meeting the ambassador repeated U.S. allegations of Sudan's support for terrorism. The meeting was a mere repetition of previous accusations, with no proof to substantiate these allegations.

### Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives

*EA1409211394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Mr. Ahmat Abderamane Haggar, the Chadian foreign minister, arrived at Khartoum airport this

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evening at the head of a delegation of the Chadian ministerial committee. He was received at Khartoum airport by Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, Chad's ambassador to Khartoum, and members of the Chadian mission in Sudan.

Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih said that the Chadian foreign minister was leading his country's delegation to meetings of the joint ministerial committee which would examine many issues aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries. He added that Sudan and Chad were linked historically and by their borders and he hoped the committee would achieve results that would promote these relations.

### Foreign Minister Urges Restructuring of United Nations

*EA1509133394 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has called for the restructuring of the United Nations in order to provide true representation for the states of the world, particularly now that most belong to the organizations. He criticized the right of veto and said it is no longer acceptable for any state. He added that resolutions are now adopted by the international organization with the aim of dominating the world by using various methods. He pointed out that developing states are more affected. They are still suffering from unjust trade systems for instance. [passage omitted]

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## Kuwait

### Sources Cited on Normalization of Ties With Jordan

*JN1509100494 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 17*

[Excerpt] Amman—The Kuwaiti Government has welcomed the idea of normalizing relations with Jordan, but said that the present time is not convenient to do so because the Kuwaiti public opinion is not in favor of any such rapprochement at the current stage. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad said that reconciliation with Jordan is not being considered at the present. He added that Mashhur al-Zabn's visit to Kuwait was an ordinary one because Jordan has the right to inspect the building of its embassy and the ambassador's residence and to pay the rent. He said: The Jordanian envoy's visit was given greater importance than necessary.

Kuwaiti press sources attributed the warm welcome accorded to al-Zabn to purely personal reasons of appreciation and respect for him and his father 'Akkash al-Zabn, who served as Jordan's ambassador to Kuwait in the early sixties. The Kuwaiti papers said that Mashhur al-Zabn was one of the few prominent political Jordanian figures who—in a press interview, the first of its kind to be published in Jordan—opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Jordanian Foreign Ministry sources, however, said that Mashhur al-Zabn visited Kuwait as an official envoy, and that the political history of his father "which we respect and appreciate has nothing to do with this visit."

A Kuwaiti source said that the Kuwaiti people are against reconciliation with Jordan, but added that efforts are being made to change this attitude. [passage omitted]

### Air Force To Conduct Live Fire Maneuvers 17-21 Sep

*LD1309144294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1343 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwait said today that aircraft from its Air Force will carry out military maneuvers with live ammunition in its southern territorial waters next week.

In a statement which was distributed here, the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry said that the Kuwaiti Air Force's aircraft will carry out maneuvers in the maritime firing range situated northeast of the Kuwaiti al-Maradim island and east of the Kuwaiti al-Kubar island during the period between 17-21 September.

The ministry did not mention in its statement the type of aircraft which will participate in the maneuvers.

It is worth mentioning that the American-made F-18 plane constitutes the backbone of the Kuwaiti Air Force.

## Saudi Arabia

### Minister: Gulf Currency Stabilizer Losing Importance

*LD1409235194 Riyadh SPA in English 2008 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 14, SPA—The topic of finding a common stabilizer for the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] currencies is no longer as important as it was several years ago, the minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl told reporters here today.

This important topic, which was discussed today within the framework of the current session of the committee of financial and economic cooperation, can be postponed to a later time as a result of the changing conditions and the new world and regional circumstances, Aba-al-Kayl said.

Referring to the good coordination among the governors of GCC's central banks, Aba-al-Kayl said that "the exchange rates among GCC's currencies have been steady and stable in recent years. This trend has continued until it has became a de facto situation."

The use of GCC's currencies in the GCC countries has been noticeably increasing in the recent years, Aba-al-Kayl said, adding that this trend has been encouraged by the steady exchange rates of GCC's currencies.

In the context of the 36th meeting of the Committee of Financial and Economic Cooperation, a technical committee, comprising geographers from all the member states, has discussed the topic of tariffs and classified 25 percent of the tariff commodities, Aba-al-Kayl noted.

Aba-al-Kayl also said that he requested this committee to continue reviewing the remaining commodities and attempt to unify their tariffs.

The Saudi minister of finance and national economy said that he also requested the committee to consider the relation of this pursuit to the developments of GATT (General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs), noting that three of the GCC member states have already joined the international agreement, whereas the applications of two or three other member states are now under study.

Referring to the re-export of foreign commodities among the GCC member states without having the approval of the local agent, the Saudi minister of finance and national economy said that this situation must be discussed and decided upon, because, he added, some GCC countries stipulate that the permission of the foreign commodity's local agent is required if the commodity were to come from another GCC member state.

If a foreign commodity's Saudi agent, for example, wants to re-export it to another GCC country, he will, then, have to get the approval of the commodity's local agent in such country, although some other states, like the

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kingdom, do not have this regulation and,thus, allow the exchange of re-exported commodities.

This topic has been discussed and the general secretariat has been requested to put forward a number of alternatives for dealing with it, Aba-al-Kayl said, noting that this issue had been previously discussed by the GCC's trade ministers.

### Italian Foreign Minister Makes Statement on Visit

*LD1409231794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Sep—His Excellency Antonio Martino, Italy's foreign affairs minister, considered the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz to be a leading country and a strong factor for stability in the region. He noted his satisfaction at the level of bilateral relations between his country and Saudi Arabia, which are progressing steadily.

He said: There are large areas of cooperation between the two countries in several sectors.

In a press statement in Jeddah today, the Italian minister said that the main purpose of his visit was to inform the Saudi Government regarding the current situation in Italy following the latest political changes that took place there recently, pointing out that the issue of cooperation between the two countries was a part of this visit.

He went on to say: I have reiterated that there are larger opportunities for cooperation between our two countries. He also said: Bilateral economic ties have increased and improved.

Minister Martino said that he had discussed with the officials in Saudi Arabia the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina and explained his country's stance regarding the peace plan for Bosnia, stressing Italy's commitment to implementing this plan in a way that would satisfy all of the parties.

He said that lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia would be the last solution that would only be resorted to after all other ways had been exhausted and had proved a failure. He noted that lifting the arms embargo would lead to the withdrawal of the international forces stationed in the region.

He considered the Middle East peace process to be an efficient means and a new opportunity for peace on the right course.

Furthermore, he stressed the need for the Baghdad regime to implement international legitimacy resolutions in connection with his invasion of Kuwait, if that regime wanted to emerge from its current isolation.

### Human Rights Committee Reports Arrest of Doctor

*LD1309133194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Text] A statement issued by the Saudi committees for the defense of legal rights in Saudi Arabia said that authorities in Riyadh last Friday [9 September] arrested Dr. Safar al-Hawalli and imprisoned him in Abha, his birthplace. Reports quoting the statement yesterday did not refer to any comment by the Saudi authorities on this matter.

## United Arab Emirates

### UAE Diplomats Deny Omani Mediation in Islands Dispute

*MM1509121094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Emirates Refer Islands Issue to Next UN Session"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi have denied that the stopover by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at Abu Dhabi airport the evening before last en route to Cairo, or the talks he held with Shaykh Hamdan Bin Rayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], have anything to do with a mediation by the Sultanate of Oman between the UAE and Iran vis-a-vis the three "UAE islands" [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] which have been occupied by Iran since 1971.

The sources said that "there is nothing new regarding the resumption of the dialogue with Iran over the islands. What the media attributed to Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati during his stay in Pakistan was inaccurate. These [his] statements contained nothing new to encourage one to say that there is a change in the Iranian position on the islands question."

Asked what the UAE is waiting for in view of Iran's continued rejection of a dialogue over the islands, the sources said that "the UAE is not in a state of waiting." They said "it is preparing for a move at the next UN General Assembly session scheduled to begin next month."

On the reports of Omani mediation, and whether the UAE has been put in the picture of what Velayati discussed in Muscat recently, the sources said that "the UAE's position is clear in this connection, namely that the UAE rejects any Arab or Gulf mediation in this connection, because Gulf and Arab states are agreed on the UAE's legal and historic claims to the islands. Accepting any mediation is bound to call these claims into question. Because it would mean that the mediating

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state has backtracked on previous stands to which they committed themselves in Gulf and Arab conferences—which has not happened."

The sources said that this does not mean that the UAE rejects any endeavor aimed at "persuading Iran to accept the principle of holding a direct dialogue over the three islands and referring to international law and international legitimacy in the dispute between the two countries."

The sources pointed out that the "UAE is seeking a legal solution to the dispute over the islands. It has sufficient legal evidence and historic documents to help it to secure a just solution. And it is willing to accept the legal and historic documents concerning the dispute as a basis to look for a solution."

## Yemen

### Salih Meets Russian Official, Receives Yeltsin Message

*JN1409143494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, who conveyed to the brother president a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The message deals with bilateral relations, fields of cooperation between the two friendly countries, means of developing and reinforcing these relations to serve joint interests and to be in harmony with the historical and traditional relations between the Yemeni and Russian peoples, as well as international issues and developments of common concern. Moreover, the message contains congratulations to our people for what they achieved in terms of victory for Yemeni unity, it expresses support for the democratic course our country has adopted and for our people in overcoming the destruction left behind by the war, and it stresses eagerness to reinforce bilateral relations and broaden fields of cooperation.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council praised Yemeni-Russian relations, noting that they are traditional relations of friendship and cooperation that have always been characterized by positive and fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He expressed our country's eagerness to reinforce and further enhance these relations to meet the aspirations of both friendly peoples and achieve their joint interests.

The meeting was attended by brother Ahmad Dayfallah al-Ghuzayb, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Russian charge d'affaires to our country.

### Salih Reportedly Asks Qabus To Extradite al-Bid

*JN1509064494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Faysal Makram and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Sanaa and Aden]

[Excerpt] Arab sources that followed talks between Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Sultan Qabus in Salalah yesterday said the Yemeni side asked the Sultanate of Oman to hand over 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Socialist Party, to be tried for "treason" and "responsibility for waging war and declaring secession." The sources, however, did not make any mention of Qabus's reply to 'Ali Salih's request. It is well known that Oman has prevented al-Bid from engaging in politics since he took refuge there in the first week of July.

The Yemeni President returned to Sanaa yesterday. He was accompanied on his visit to Salalah by Deputy Prime Ministers 'Abd- al-Wahhab al-Anisi and 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal, Minister of Planning and Development 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, and President's Adviser Brigadier General 'Abdallah al-Bashiri. Yemeni sources said the talks dealt in particular with the role Oman can play to improve Yemen's ties with neighborly states in light of Sanaa's declared desire to open a new chapter with them. [passage omitted]

### Security Forces Foil Midair Hijack Attempt

*NC1409150994 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 26 Sep 94*

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 14 (AFP)—Yemeni security forces foiled a mid-air hijack attempt Wednesday [14 September], overpowering a man armed with a grenade on board an airliner of the national carrier Alyemda on a flight from Aden to Sanaa, witnesses said.

Salih Ahmad Hasan, a 30-year-old Yemeni man, tried to enter the flight deck of the Boeing-737 with a grenade in his hand, but security forces grabbed him, seized the device and tied him up, passengers said after arriving in Sanaa.

The plane, carrying 80 passengers and crew, landed without problems and the hijacker was arrested.

A security official at Sanaa airport said Ahmad Hasan was being questioned about his motives.

Alyemda resumed services after the two-month Yemeni civil war ended on July 7 with the capture of Aden by northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The airline was run by the authorities in South Yemen before unification in May 1990. The Sanaa-based national airline Yemenia is run separately from Alyemda.

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### UN Security Council Reviews Sanctions

*JN1409204794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] New York, 14 Sep (INA)—The UN Security Council members this evening held consultations about the sanctions, which are reviewed every 60 days.

Following the consultations, the Council chairman, Spain's UN Ambassador Juan Yanez-Barnuevo, announced that the Council had heard all the views and that he, in his capacity as chairman, has concluded that, despite the progress communicated to the Council through numerous reports and messages, there remain certain items that have not been implemented. Therefore, an agreement was not reached noting that the necessary conditions had been met, which would have called for a change in the sanctions regime, as enshrined in Resolution 687.

Russia's delegate said: We are convinced that the Council must recognize the positive steps taken by Iraq recently on the question of disarmament, as confirmed by the UN Special Commission. We have expressed our satisfaction that the monitoring system will be ready for operation soon. We hope the Council will conduct further deliberations about Iraq in early October. We suggested that the Council members recognize the positive changes in Iraq's position and that the test period for the monitoring system not exceed six months, the Russian representative added.

Many Council members expressed the need to implement the Council resolutions and the Russian view.

An INA correspondent in New York has learned that the issues of when and how to lift the sanctions will be raised substantially during the meetings Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz is to have with member states who will participate in the 49th session of the General Assembly, set to open 26 September 1994.

### Kurdish Delegation at Session

*JN1409191794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] An Iraqi National Congress delegation comprised of Dr. Salah al-Shaykhali, 'Aziz 'Ulayyan, Hamid al-Bayati, and Mrs. Randa Rahim will participate in the UN Security Council meetings over the next three days to review the sanctions that are being imposed on the Iraqi regime.

Delegation member Randa Rahim said that the purpose of the delegation's visit is to brief the UN Security Council on the Iraqi people's problems and tribulation. The delegation will also discuss the Iraqi regime's human rights violations, such as killings, repression, and arrests, and the siege it is imposing on Kurdistan, in addition to the regime's assassination attempts against UN workers on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders.

Mrs. Randa Rahim added: The delegation will also submit to the council the issue of the death of Kho'i, the spiritual leader of the shiites in southern Iraq, as well as sending food and medicines to the Iraqi people. In our opinion, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 is the best solution to this issue.

The delegation will also try to ensure that the assistance that reaches the regime will reach all sectors of the people and not just one sector.

### Assembly Speaker Addresses Meeting on Sanctions

*JN1409194194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has reiterated that the war is continuing against the Iraqi people, albeit in the form of the sanctions, which reflects the entrenched animosity of Western, and particularly U.S., policymakers.

During a meeting today with delegations attending the international seminar of nongovernmental organizations on the impact of sanctions on the Iraqi people, Salih added: Your presence in Baghdad means a lot to the Iraqi people, because you represent the good gathering in the world. Besides, you have seen with your own eyes the direct impact the sanctions are having on health, social services, and educational activities.

The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly went on to say that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Influential members of the UN Security Council had claimed that they would demand an end to the sanctions once Iraq honors its obligations. Nonetheless, facts have demonstrated the evil intentions which the U.S. Administration has attempted to cloak with the mantle of international legitimacy.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih stressed that the Iraqi people's steadfastness, their support for their leadership, and their constant willingness to defend the homeland, are bound to make unmistakable contributions toward thwarting all hostile schemes.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih noted that the UN Security Council was not content with imposing the sanctions on the Iraqi people. It also passed unfair resolutions against them, including a resolution that has frozen Iraqi assets at international banks—the assets that were used to purchase food, medicine, and other survival requirements, he argued.

The National Assembly speaker urged the participants in the seminar to work toward lifting the sanctions clamped on the Iraqi people, and exposing its hateful objectives, which are killing tens of thousands of Iraqi children through starvation and disease, and obstructing the implementation of vital projects in various areas.

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### Symposium Concludes

*JN1409191094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—Three days of sessions held by the nongovernmental international symposium about the effects of the sanctions on the people of Iraq concluded here today. [passage omitted]

A working paper, supported by documents and figures, and presented by a Ministry of Culture and Information representative described the adverse effects the continuing sanctions are having on the country's media and cultural establishments.

It points out that the sanctions have forced newspapers and magazines to cut the number of their pages. He noted that papers which used to print one million copies daily before the sanctions are now printing only 50,000. They also appear only five instead of the former seven days a week. [passage omitted]

### Kuwaiti Attempts To Perpetuate Embargo Assailed

*JN1309171694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 10 Sep 94 p 1*

[Article by Taha al-Basri]

[Text] Whenever the date for the periodic review of the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq by the Security Council approaches, the al-Sabah family's grudge increases. Thus, they dispatch envoys to many permanent and nonpermanent member states in order to convince them to continue the blockade and stand alongside the United States in its intransigent position in this regard.

Many Security Council member states have clearly changed their positions on the blockade after receiving conclusive evidence that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments. Some of these states even began to demand a similar commitment by the Security Council and the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Section C of Resolution 687. Despite the clarity of the isolated U.S. position, the al-Sabah family members, with their known grudge against all that is good, are still roaming the world in a desperate attempt to persuade these states to change their convictions. They think that with their money they can make these states depart not only from their political positions but also from their national interests. This is because these states have begun to realize that their interests lie in lifting the blockade on Iraq because this blockade harms them, perhaps almost as much as it harms Iraq.

This feverish campaign, which is repeated whenever the Security Council holds a review, will be doomed to failure. This is so not only because the al-Sabah family's dwarfs cannot control the policies of these states in a way that will ensure the continuation of the blockade, but also because the blockade must inevitably disintegrate, despite the efforts made by the rancorous ones, by virtue of the Iraqi people's steadfastness, endurance, and adherence to their national principles. These are the factors that changed the international position on the blockade as a prelude to lifting it as soon as possible.

### Ramadan Receives Russian, Yemeni Groups

*JN1409192694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received a delegation from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] led by (Aleksey Valinovig Trovanov), vice chairman of the LDPR and deputy head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Russian House of Representatives, the Duma.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the regimes that have succumbed to the hegemonic and colonialist U.S. policy have lost their integrity, independence, and sovereignty, and become subservient to U.S. imperialism, which uses all methods of aggression and deception to achieve its ambitions and promote its interests, even if this is to be accomplished at the expense of dominating peoples and controlling their riches and destinies.

The vice president added: The perpetuation of the sanctions against the Iraqi people has clearly exposed the objectives of the U.S. policy and the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

For his part, the vice chairman of the LDPR commended the principled positions of leader President Saddam Husayn, and his wise leadership, which has turned the Iraqi people into a model to be emulated by all peoples who reject subservience and adhere to their sovereignty and independence.

In a separate development, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has reiterated that the key objective of Arab organizations, parties, and popular forces should be to defend the common destiny and Arab existence so that our Arab nation may remain a living and forceful nation standing firmly in the face of its malicious enemies, who covet its territories and riches.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Yemeni Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization led by 'Abdallah Muhammad Salih, assistant secretary general of the organization's Central Committee, Vice President Ramadan said that the Arab nation's sons have managed to cope with all the foreign invasions and attacks to which the Arab nation has been exposed throughout history, and remained powerful, because it is a nation born to accomplish missions, uphold principles, and cherish values. All conquests, colonialist adventures, and aggressions have been defeated, he added.

### 'Izzat Ibrahim Confers With LDPR Leader

*JN1409145394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has

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received Aleksey Valinovig Trovanov [name as transliterated], vice chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] and deputy head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Russian House of Representatives, the Duma.

'Izzat Ibrahim commended the LDPR's positions toward Iraq, and its relentless efforts to break the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq. He also praised the Russian official and popular support for reviving cooperation between the two countries, and also for rehabilitating their friendly bilateral ties.

For his part, Trovanov expressed his admiration for Iraq's steadfastness under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in the face of the international conspiracies targeting its renaissance potential and its honorable international positions. He also underscored his party's eagerness to continue the efforts to revoke the unfair embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, and to promote Iraqi-Russian ties in the interest of the peoples of the two friendly countries.

### Russians Briefed by Oil Minister

*JN1409145594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad today received a delegation from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] led by Aleksey Valinovig Trovanov [name as transliterated], vice chairman of the LDPR and deputy head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Russian House of Representatives, the Duma.

The oil minister reviewed with the guest delegation part of the reconstruction drive carried out by Iraqi oil cadres to rehabilitate the oil installations damaged during the treacherous 30-state aggression, drawing on Iraqi expertise.

For his part, Trovanov commended the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the brutal embargo.

### U.S. Intervention 'Under UN Flag' Assailed

*JN1309193594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 2*

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "U.S. 'Right' of Intervention"]

[Text] Before the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the release of the U.S. beast, it was a taboo for any nation, whether big or small, to interfere in the internal affairs of another country. The sovereignty of all member states of the United Nations was well protected and inviolable against any excuse or justification.

However, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the so-called socialist camp has given the United States a free hand in international affairs in a way that is unprecedented in human history. The tragedy is that the United States has tightened its grip on the world organization and the Security Council to the point where it can now make the council issue any resolution against any state at any time it wants.

This serious development in international relations and in the mechanism of the world organization has allowed the U.S. Administration to exercise a dictatorship over international society and violate the rules of international law under the excuse of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy under the UN flag! In other words, the United States can, under any resolution it obtains from the Security Council, give itself the right to interfere in the internal affairs of any state in the world—even invade that state and impose an embargo or a blockade on it!

This is how the United States invaded Panama and launched its savage aggression on Iraq, imposing an unjust and illegitimate blockade on its people. This is also how it invaded Somalia and killed its hungry defenseless people. This is also how U.S. forces have begun exercises in a military base in Puerto Rico in preparation for the invasion of Haiti.

The paradox here is that it was the secretary general of the United Nations, which is supposed to guarantee international peace and security, who announced that it is the right of the United States to intervene in Haiti at any time and that it is not essential to give a prior warning to that country. He also considered the role of the United Nations as over following the adoption of Resolution 940 permitting military intervention in Haiti under the leadership of the United States.

Since Resolution 940 is American in its conception and production, is it an adequate legal ground to grant the United States the right to intervene in Haiti, or rather invade Haiti and impose a blockade on its people?

The main problem in international society today is the absence of a counter weight or international bloc for the United States. This is the international dictatorship that the United States is exercising on the world. This is the non-democracy of obtaining resolutions from the UN Security Council.

Certainly, this unusual international situation cannot continue long, because if it does its victims will increase with time. No one will be safe from its consequences and destructive results, not even those who are applauding the U.S. dictatorship and running after it like dogs.

### BABIL Says U.S. To Face 'Defeat' in Haiti

*JN1409103294 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 14, (INA)—BABIL today expressed certainty that the U.S. forces preparing for invading Haiti would be doomed with the plastering defeat it had faced in Iraq, Somalia, Panama and Grenada.

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The paper editorialized that the U.S. had industriously mapped out scenarios to arouse a concocted fuss, in which, Washington must not necessarily be a party of it.

In the meantime, it directs Arab media organs to fabricate certain issues around this target country as those related to human rights, democracy and a set of out and dried allegations besides arousing a onetime issue with an eye to bestow legitimacy on its aggressive acts.

The paper pointed out that the U.S., preparing now to launch its aggression on Haiti, had already orchestrated the political ambience towards this very end after it had depicted the situation there as unbearable and that the Haitian ruling regime is threatening dire consequences, thus there is no other option than military intervention.

### U.S. Said To Want Escalation With Cuba, Japan

*JN1409130394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH accused President Bill Clinton's administration of planning to escalate the situation with Cuba and launch an economic war against Japan in an attempt to polish its image in the eyes of the U.S. voter.

In a report today, the newspaper expressed confidence that the U.S. Administration is facing the problem of a lack of confidence by the U.S. voter who accuses Clinton of deception, prevarication, and procrastination in implementing his elections program, which focused on domestic problems. This led the U.S. Administration to fabricate foreign crises to keep the American peoples minds off their own crisis and domestic problems.

The newspaper referred to the opinion polls conducted by the TIMES and CNN, which showed Clinton's popularity at 40 percent—the lowest level for a U.S. President in four decades.

The newspaper highlighted the suffocating political crisis facing Clinton's administration, and said the U.S. Administration is facing a big political dilemma as a result of several hot issues it is facing such as the Cuban refugees, the faltering trade talks with Japan, and conflict with Bonn and Tokyo on permanent membership in the Security Council.

AL-THAWRAH emphasized that this confusion in U.S. foreign policy will surely surround it with a host of crises and problems that are aggravated by the domestic crises sweeping American society. This situation will affect the U.S. Administration's ambitions to control the world and the decisionmaking within the UN organizations and establishments. This will eventually lead to the success of some powers in their attempts to surface on world scene, such as the case with Japan's aspiration to become a big power in Asia, and even in the world.

### Paper Warns Iran Against New 'Aggression'

*JN1309194994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 2*

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif]

[Text] When events in Iran led to the downfall of the shah and the arrival of a new regime, Iraq was the first to congratulate the new rulers in Tehran. But the Iranian rulers responded with aggression. Later, their entire foreign policy was conducted on this basis. Thus, on 4 September 1980 we clearly witnessed the first application of the policy of armed aggression on Iraq; a policy which later led to a large-scale war between the two countries. That war continued for eight years and ended with the victory of the Iraqis, as everybody knows.

History does not repeat itself; only certain manifestations repeat themselves under different circumstances. This can be observed clearly in certain behaviors and statements which are reminiscent of those that took place at a similar time in the past.

Those in Iran no longer talk loudly as they did in the past about liberating Iraq. But they are saying it in a different way with their policy of continuous interference in Iraq' internal affairs; a policy which reached its peak during the imperialist aggression on Iraq in 1991, or what later became known as the chapter of treason and treachery. Another form of continuous interference which exist to this day is the exportation of terrorism to Iraq, the formation of an organization under a Kurdish name in Iraqi Kurdistan, and turning some areas there on the pattern of al-Biqa' and Ba'labakk in Lebanon.

At the same time, the Iranian rulers have betrayed the trust of the military and civilian aircraft that Iraq transferred to Iran during the 30-state aggression; they have continued to hold thousands of Iraqi prisoners; they refuse to develop the 1988 cease-fire agreement with Iraq into lasting peace; and they insist that Iraq pay tens of billions as reparations for the losses of their aggression on our country. Thus, the Tehran rulers have followed the method of the old, neo-colonialists by asking Iraq to shoulder the full cost of their savage aggression in addition to other financial responsibilities in the name of the UN Security Council.

All these Iranian claims cannot but be considered as purposeful methods which Iran could use at the appropriate time as pretexts for a new aggression on Iraq. It is necessary to draw the Iranian rulers' attention here to the danger of any miscalculations in their minds to embark on a military adventure against our country on the basis of certain losses which Iraq may have sustained in the war, or the potential effect of the inspection teams or the long-term monitoring on its military capabilities. This is because when Iraq replied to the 4 September 1988 aggression on the 22d of the same month, Iran's military power, which was ten times that of Iraq, and the talk about the Iranian Army being the fifth strongest army in the world did not prevent Iraq from entering the war by depending on the rights of Iraq, the military genius of leader President Saddam Husayn, and the Iraqi citizen's chivalry, patriotism, historical adherence to his freedom and independence, and sacrifice for the sake of the homeland.

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Under the current regional and international circumstances, it is not in Iran's real interest to provoke Iraq in any form. In fact, it is in Iran's real interest to resolve all outstanding problems with Iraq. Reaching such a solution is not a complicated process and it does not require a genius in Iran to achieve it. What is required is goodwill on the Iranian side in order to achieve comprehensive peace between the two countries.

The hypocritical policy which expressed open sympathy with the Iraqis during the U.S.-imperialist aggression on Iraq but acted secretly against them until it came out openly in the chapter of treason and treachery had proved a failure. It did not achieve the gains it sought from that policy. That failure, along with other factors, is a lesson which Iran must learn. Will Iran learn this lesson?

### Mubarak's Handling of Kuwaiti 'Rumor' Attacked

*JN1309160494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 1*

[Article by Taha al-Basri: "What Lies Behind These Lies?"]

[Text] We do not know exactly what lies behind Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's repeated denial that he has received a letter from the Iraqi leadership, especially since Iraq has already denied, through the media, that it sent a letter or an envoy to the Egyptian president to discuss any current issues.

It is President Husni Mubarak's right to say whatever he wants to say. However, it is regrettable that he has dealt with it in this manner. Although he personally admitted that the matter was a rumor launched from Kuwait for motives that he and the agents from the al-Sabah family know, it seems that Mubarak decided to deal with it as a fact anyway. He did this in press interviews with more than one newspaper, in quick succession, particularly in interviews with the yellow newspapers financed by the Al Sa'ud family.

President Husni Mubarak is well aware that the Iraqi leadership always deals with things publicly and clearly and that it has nothing to hide. Such clarity in Iraq's stands and the way it deals with things is one of the reasons it was targeted and conspired against. Hence, there is no justification for secret contacts with the Egyptian president or anyone else. Whatever the Iraqi leadership wants to do, it does in a direct manner without detours and evasions.

What is also regrettable is that the president of Egypt—a country that was and still is one of the bastions of Arabism and popular struggle—had to ask for support from such lowly and base people as [Saudi Arabia's King] Fahd and [Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh] Jabir and that he had to swear by the most sacred religion that he did not receive a letter from the Iraqi leadership. In his press statements, he clings to the shirttail of corrupted Shaykh Jabir and pleads to him by saying: "Your highness the amir, don't believe this." If the president of Egypt let himself be placed in such a situation, then we are certain that the struggling people of Egypt will not accept it. In his press statements, the Egyptian president tries to play the same unsuccessful game played by the imperialists and Zionists in an effort to divide between the leader and his people. He says: "First of all, we support the people of Iraq." Meanwhile, our people tell him that whoever supports Iraq does not stand alongside Iraq's enemies, does not effectively take part in an aggression against it, and does not exercise an embargo that goes beyond that exercised by the aggressors against the children, the women, and the elderly. They do not disavow the pan-Arab stands of the Iraq of leader Saddam Husayn, in terms of ending the isolation of Egypt and receiving hundreds of thousands of its people in Iraq, their second homeland, and according them great hospitality while they contributed, along with their Iraqi brothers, to developing Iraq and Egypt too. These are the pan-Arab stands that the sons of Egypt remember with pride.

Timing the launching of lies prior to the UN Security Council's periodic review of the embargo imposed on Iraq is no more than another link in the chain of efforts by the malicious ones to shuffle papers, to exacerbate the tense atmosphere, and to appease the agents from the al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud families to continue the embargo. All this will fail through the determination of the zealous Iraqis, their brave steadfastness, and their cohesion with their leader, the symbol of their pride, struggler Saddam Husayn.

### Western Forces Hold on North Said Weakening

*JN1309195794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 2*

["Standpoint" column by Diya' Hasan: "The Killers of Kurds are Being Eroded"]

[Text] The erosion of the armed gangs in northern Iraq can no longer be concealed by Western clamor or by the deception emanating from the U.S. Administration in particular.

Western reports have revealed the truth about this erosion and the current state of decadence, lawlessness, brutal force, murder, and crime in the Autonomous Region.

For more than six months now Talabani and Barzani supporters, as well as the pro-Iran Dast group, have been butchering each other. These fierce battles have caused the death of hundreds of Kurdish citizens and the destitution of thousands of others who are fleeing the fighting between these gangs and their supporters across the borders.

With the fall of the lie about the possibility of coexistence between these gangs under foreign protection and encouragement, another bigger lie has fallen; namely, the flimsy and ridiculous presence of Western forces, which have come under the pretext and claim of protecting

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Kurdish citizens from their own Iraqi people. Yet, a BBC report has acknowledged that these forces are no more than bystanders watching the fighting and the crimes which are being committed against our Kurdish people, which proves that there is no security in the region. Sanctities are being violated and brutal force is dominant, spreading fear and terror among Kurdish citizens who can no longer move freely in their areas during most hours of the day and night out of fear of being murdered or extorted by the lawless gangs in control.

The BBC report says that Western forces, which claim to protect the Kurds, are getting ready to cut down their number due to insufficient funds to cover expenses. They are also incapable of safeguarding the security of the Kurdish citizens in their residential areas from potential raids by armed gangs. Actually, these Western forces cannot protect their own men, let alone others.

The BBC report affirms that the position of these forces has weakened. Their presence is now no more than symbolic following the escalation of the fighting between the armed gangs. This fighting has resulted in the death of more than 600 and the flight of thousands of Kurdish families across the border in search of security and to avoid the death which is hovering over the region due to gang tyranny and rivalry to secure control and to collect ransoms from Kurdish citizens. This is going on with the approval of the West and the knowledge and encouragement of its intelligence representatives in the region whose main aim is to maintain this state of lawlessness and utter loss in the autonomous region in the absence of the national authority, whose presence had been and still is the only guarantee for the supremacy of law and security and the flow of normal life in the region.

Therefore, the facts reveal and Western reports confirm, that what is taking place in northern Iraq is a temporary, ignoble situation which cannot last, nor can it be accepted by the one thriving Iraqi body. This situation, which has been imposed under the temporary conditions of aggression and against the will of all Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds—is being eroded from within and is about to see its end. The gangs which were imposed on our Kurdish people as a result of an aggressive Western presence will not continue to exist because they lack the bases of respect and acceptance by the sons of the region. Those who take up arms to liquidate innocent Kurds and deliberately split their unity and homeland in the interest of covetous foreign forces, are bound to be rejected. They have indeed been rejected.

### Kuwait Paper Reports Two Truck Explosions

*JN1509101194 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 11 Sep 94 p 25*

[Text] The Iraqi transmission corporation [hay'at al-irsal al-'iraqiyah] correspondent in al-Ramadi city has said that at 0010 hours on the night of Tuesday, 6 September 1994, a bomb exploded in a 40-tonne Jordanian oil truck trailer, which carries Iraqi oil to Jordan, 50 km south of al-Ramadi. As a result of the explosion, the truck trailer was set on fire.

The correspondent added that at 0235 another explosion took place in a cargo truck, 400 km from the first explosion. The truck was burned and the drivers of the other trucks fled the site. Security forces surrounded the area immediately and began to search for the perpetrators, but to no avail.

### Al-Najaf Explosion Destroys Military Building

*NC1409172094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] An explosion in al-Najaf city has destroyed a part of the military discipline building and a number of military vehicles. AL-MU'TAMAR newspaper, issued the day before yesterday and citing an Iraqi radio correspondent, reported that the explosion which destroyed the building took place on 3 September. However, no information was available about the number of losses among the members of the military discipline. The correspondent cited eyewitnesses as saying that regime security forces arrived at the scene of the explosion after the perpetrators succeeded in getting away. The correspondent added that this explosion is another in a series of explosions in all Iraqi cities. This confirms that resistance operations against Saddam's regime are escalating and that the regime's security state is weakened.

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## Rabin Comments on Haiti, Shin Bet, Talks With Syria

*TA1409113694 Tel Aviv DAVAR (YOM KIPPUR supplement) in Hebrew 14 Sep 94 p 5*

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Teddy Preuss in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 12 September—first paragraph is DAVAR introduction]

[Excerpts] It is 1245 on Monday [12 September] in the prime minister's office. Yitzhaq Rabin leaves the room where Labor's Knesset faction convened to discuss the "rebellion" against a withdrawal (in principle) from the Golan Heights. Heated voices, including Rabin's bass, occasionally emerge from the room. Is he worried?

[Rabin] Most of those who object to the plans contemplated by the government have said that they will toe the party line. Ultimately, all of them will accept the decision of the majority. I realize the sensitivity of all circles with regard to the Golan, but it is too early to make a fuss. After all, I promised to hold a referendum if necessary. I announced that if the treaty we are negotiating calls for a deep withdrawal, we have no mandate to effect it. Therefore, we will seek the people's opinion before we sign the final agreement. Nevertheless, it is absolutely inconceivable to seek a privileged majority of 65 percent in the Knesset. This would be a vote of no confidence in our Arab citizens. A referendum is a referendum, and its results will have to be accepted.

[Preuss] Does the government have the authority to announce a referendum out of the blue?

[Rabin] No. A referendum will require Knesset legislation.

[Preuss] Speculation and rumors are rife about an earlier and accelerated conclusion of the negotiations with Syria. The Syrian foreign minister voiced a moderate (according to their terms) position in London, and spoke about "warm peace" and diplomatic relations. A few days later, President Hafiz al-Asad delivered a speech at the opening session of the Syrian parliament. Although Israeli "circles" welcomed it, al-Asad's speech was tough compared to al-Shar's words and he made no mention of any warm peace or diplomatic relations.

[Rabin] I will not analyze each and every word said. The Syrians usually are more soft-spoken outside their country than they are in speeches for domestic consumption. Nevertheless, even in the Syrian parliament, al-Asad spoke about "objective conditions of peace," and we had never heard such words before.

Obviously, this position does not bridge all the gaps. We submitted to the Syrians, via the Americans, a package consisting of four elements. We accepted the principle of withdrawal and what remains to be seen is the depth of the withdrawal. We did not commit ourselves to a specific line, and this issue has yet to be discussed.

The second element is the duration of the withdrawal. I will not specify the number of years, but it will take time. Then we will examine the implementation of the relations that will be created after a minor withdrawal which will not involve the uprooting of settlements. We may also tie the Lebanon issue to it.

The third element is the duration of the testing period—three years—and if the normalization of relations is up to par we will effect yet another withdrawal in two phases.

The fourth element is security arrangements, such as demilitarization, cutting the number of regular troops, early warning, and so forth. The arrangements will include the stationing of soldiers in areas to be determined. Reference is not to a "peace force," but to monitoring units such as the 900 U.S. observers who have been stationed in the Sinai for the past 16 years. We will appeal to the Americans to ensure deterrence and early warning and to increase the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] preparedness.

[Preuss] What "increasing the IDF's preparedness" means is building up the Army. Does this not contradict the agreement you just mentioned about cutting down the number of regular troops?

[Rabin] I spoke about reducing the number of regular troops, which form the bulk of the Syrian Army, and not about the reserves, as is the case with our Army.

[Preuss] You occasionally call on the Syrians for direct negotiations. Is there U.S. pressure to speed things up, as could be evidenced be by the imminent visit of the secretary of state?

[Rabin] The secretary of state will apparently not visit this month. There is not and there has never been any pressure. The Americans play an unrivaled constructive role and they will continue to play it without exerting any pressure. There is no contradiction between the increased U.S. involvement and direct negotiations. The two initiatives can be conducted in parallel, and there is no contradiction between them. As for direct high-level contacts, the Syrians are not yet prepared for it despite all our calls.

[Preuss] Earlier you spoke about "sensitivity of all circles" to a withdrawal on the Golan. What does your sister think about it?

[Rabin] (Angrily) What has my sister got to do with it?

[Preuss] She lives in Kibbutz Manara, in the Galilee.

[Rabin] I will not talk about the views I exchange with my sister. It is nobody's business.

[Preuss] Turning to the Palestinians, the talks with them and with the donor countries were suspended due to our objection to investments in Jerusalem. What do we care if they also invest in Jerusalem?

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[Rabin] It would be a mistake to include Jerusalem in the areas receiving funds from the donor countries. If Germany or Holland—but not the organization of donor countries as such—want to build a hospital or a theater in Jerusalem that is all right. The organization is supposed to invest only in the areas of the Palestinian Authority. It will also be allowed to invest in areas which will be administered by the Palestinian Authority in the future, but Jerusalem is off limits. [passage omitted]

[Preuss] What sort of relations do you have with the chief of staff? Does his statement in Washington about the need to keep Israeli forces on the Golan Heights not contradict the government's policy?

[Rabin] The chief of staff did not say any word in the United States that he has not said in the cabinet or in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Like it or not, his statements were leaked and made public. A chief of staff expresses the position of the Army, and that is what he has been doing in his meetings with the pertinent bodies in Israel; that is his duty. During the negotiations with the Egyptians, top IDF officers made far more serious proclamations. [passage omitted]

[Preuss] The cabinet has approved the expedition of an Israeli unit to Haiti if and when the invasion of the island is completed. This could add more fuel to a burning fire. Does the government not have enough problems without Haiti?

[Rabin] We receive unlimited aid from the United States in many areas. We receive $3 billion a year as a grant, and since the mid-1980's we have received over $33 billion from the Americans. If, for a change, the United States solicits our help it is our duty to extend it. After all, we will not be involved in any combat but only in establishing and upholding peace. We will only monitor developments on the island. At this point we just have the government's approval in principle. When the issue becomes imminent, we will have to look into the details.

[Preuss] Is a new Shin Bet scandal brewing?

[Rabin] The right wing has launched an incitement campaign against the Shin Bet with the help of radical right-wing elements. There is no end to the falsehoods and incitement they have been spreading. The Shin Bet operated with my full approval against a group which planned to stage heinous attacks on Palestinians only because they were Palestinians, as did the despicable murderer Goldstein. Today's inciters had better remember that at one time the Shin Bet had to protect Jews who were slated to be killed only because they were Jews.

### Interviewed on Gaza

*OW1409081094 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1016 GMT 12 Sep 94*

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by NHK commentator Hatsuhisa Takashima in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded, in English; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] [Takashima] Mr. Prime Minister, in the past few days we have been hearing the so-called speculated new development—the peace, or peace process between Israel and Syria.

[Rabin] I believe the speech of President al-Asad before the Syrian parliament included positive elements, and declaration of principles that the strategy of Syria is aimed to achieve peace, but your definition is right. We are inching. We are going slowly, but one has to bear in mind that we have a past of almost 47 years of fighting, animosity, tragedies. Therefore, we are talking or laying a foundation. You can't demand from one side to come, and say this is my position about the depth of withdrawal without knowing, for my part, what I'll get in on the three legs. [as heard] It has to be a package deal. And it has to be agreed as a package deal.

[Takashima] And you would say that in order to know the other three parts of the legs, you would like to have a secret bilateral dialogue.

[Rabin] This the best way, because then we can exchange. We had experience with the PLO to overcome the basic, natural rejection of the PLO.

[Takashima] In the past few days, I visited Gaza and Jericho, but still the living standard is so low so that that would ignite some sort of dissatisfaction among the people again. How do you cope with that problem from the side of Israel?

[Rabin] Four hundred million dollars that are waiting for them. Without having an accountable and (?transparent) way of expending the money, no country that is controlled by parliament, by the people—our federal democratic countries and all the donor countries are democratic—would like to give money without knowing how it is spent. And this is the major problem. We wasted nine months. I know. The Palestinian can wave his flags for three, six months, nine months. If they do not see a beginning of a change in their social economic problems, there will be difficulties. The key is the interrelationships between 'Arafat, organization, and the donors. Israel is not a party how to manage the transfer of money of the donors to the Palestinians. [sentence as heard]

### Jordanian Newspaper Interviews Peres

*JN1509090394 Amman THE STAR in English 15 Sep 94 p 4*

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by THE STAR correspondent Elizabeth Ommachen "conducted in Mr. Peres' office in West Jerusalem last week"]

[Text] [Ommachen] Some observers have said Jordanian and Israeli negotiators discussing water issues appear to

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be speaking different languages. While Israelis emphasize the need for new water resources, Jordanians insist upon rightful allocation. Is it a matter of polarization regarding water?

[Peres] You know, there's not much sense in dividing the shortages of the past. On the other hand, we can solve the problem by developing new methods of saving water and producing it.

[Ommachen] Some people say that the issues of water and borders are so charged and entangled that resolution will only occur if Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn tackle the problem personally. Do you think it's coming to that point?

[Peres] Maybe. You know there have been meetings between Crown Prince Hasan and myself and Prime Minister al-Majali and myself, and we shall try to air out the issues.

[Ommachen] How do you gauge Israeli opposition to the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Peres] Very little. The Jordanian agreement unites Israelis, it doesn't divide it.

[Ommachen] You were instrumental in laying the foundation for Israel's nuclear program. In this era of peace, would you help to dismantle the program you built? Will Israel move to nuclear disarmament?

[Peres] Yes. Once we have peace.

(The recent call for disarmament from the Egyptians was rejected) because we don't have peace. We told the Egyptians, "What do you want from us?" Suppose the Iranians are coming and saying loud and clear, "We want to destroy you." But before this they want to be sure there is no nuclear proliferation.

Their suspicion is our defense.

We're going to make peace and then, we shall see. That's our mission and our hope.

[Ommachen] In his proposal to the Syrians, Prime Minister Rabin has called for a "slight withdrawal" from the Golan. What would this entail?

[Peres] We don't have any specifics, but clearly a slight withdrawal means not to touch the existing settlements. We'll try to carve the territory in such a way that won't harm the settlements.

[Ommachen] In that scenario, how do you propose to guarantee the security of the settlements?

[Peres] They will remain under our responsibility, like with Egypt. With Egypt we partially normalized the relations and then we permitted time to serve as our test. Actually, we're hanging very much on the Egyptian precedent.

We didn't mention the final line. But, I imagine that dismantling the settlements will be a Syrian demand. The Israeli response depends upon the negotiations.

[Ommachen] Israel has already accepted the principle of withdrawal in the Golan.

[Peres] There is a fine line—some people say from the Golan line, some people say in the Golan line. At this hour of time, we are ready for a withdrawal in the Golan line.

[Ommachen] Your Syrian counterpart, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', has rejected Mr. Rabin's proposal for a limited withdrawal. Are you willing to concede to Syria's insistence for full withdrawal in exchange for normalization or are you opting for another solution?

[Peres] We think it's a little bit strange what the Syrians are asking us to do; that we should announce a full withdrawal and then we shall negotiate. Why should we? The depth of the withdrawal is connected to the nature of peace, the timetable and the security arrangements.

I think they are very incognizant of the situation. They're very slow. After all, you see, it is us who have to be on the healing side in tangibles. For the Syrians, the problems are intangibles. We have to give back land. They have to make commitments. So, no wonder they're more careful.

[Ommachen] Limited withdrawal over three years has been described as a test. What do you expect from Syria in those three years?

[Peres] Let's see if the normalization functions, if it's becoming a new reality. I, for one, believe it will. I believe that all of us are condemned to have peace, and nobody can escape. The worst somebody can do is to postpone it, but not to escape it. And I will go full speed ahead.

As far as we are concerned, we would like a comprehensive peace, not a partial peace. We would like to see any wound being done healed.

[Ommachen] The issue of the Golan has re-ignited opposition from all sides. The settlers say they're gearing up for a "Save the Golan" campaign. Coupled with opposition from the Likud and the recent divisions within your own party—the Labor Party—over the Golan, how does this affect Israel's potential for achieving peace with Syria?

[Peres] It's normal that in a democratic system you will encounter some opposition. It's also normal that every departure from the status quo brings sadness. People are so used to having to work to resist. All of us are basically prepared to remember rather than to think. It's very hard to divorce memories.

I think it is our task to go ahead, and we're very serious.

[Ommachen] The opposition in the Knesset also appears to be taking this seriously.

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Israeli lawmakers are talking about pushing through a bill that would call for a majority of 70 of 120 Knesset members to change the status of the Golan, and they are calling a 65 percent majority in a national referendum. With those figures, many say approval would be nearly impossible to achieve. How do you regard these attempts?

[Peres] Sounds to me to be very unsound.

How can a normal majority take for itself the right to become a privileged majority? This doesn't make any sense. How can they take away from each of us part of our rights? I was elected 100 percent, not 65 percent. It's against fairness and in my judgment, against the constitution, because all of us have an equal right. For a small majority to suggest a great and privileged majority, it's trying really to grasp for itself power that the people did not give it.

We shall object to it very strongly.

[Ommachen] Mr Rabin said he would call on the Americans to provide support in "deterrence, early warning and material depth of fighting capabilities." What kind of commitment do you have from the U.S.?

[Peres] We are not talking about soldiers, we are talking about equipment. And I imagine the Americans will be very forthcoming.

[Ommachen] Do you see the need for multilateral observation forces?

[Peres] It's very hard to say. We have it in Sina'. We are clearly not asking for an American army to guard our borders. I think that's our task. We're talking about something symbolic, and I'm not convinced that even there's a need for it.

[Ommachen] Do you plan to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' or can we expect a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President al-Asad?

[Peres] Our part is open, and their part is resisting. It's an open invitation, which until now hasn't been answered. But I hope the time will come. I don't understand why when we negotiate peace we have to remain shy. Why? We're not negotiating something that is unfair or clandestine. It would be more than normal to meet and talk. The Syrian side doesn't want to have this sort of relationship.

[Ommachen] Are you satisfied with Arafat's recent attempts to crackdown on Islamic Jihad in Gaza and mend fences with Hamas?

[Peres] I am satisfied with the growing understanding by 'Arafat to improve his response for whatever is happening in the territories which are under his jurisdiction. We don't expect 'Arafat to do anything for us, we expect him to do it for himself. They are trying to endanger his rule more than ours. We would expect anybody responsible for a land to take the necessary measures.

He didn't answer any call of Israel's. He answered the call of his own needs.

Those who criticize him should ask themselves, what did they achieve? They kept the Palestinian tragedy intact for so many years. They refused to have a state when they could have had it. They created the refugee problem, which was totally unnecessary. What is their claim to glory? Their only claim is to gloom, not to glory.

[Ommachen] It's apparent to many people that Israel's selective release of Palestinian Prisoners is an attempt at goodwill that backfired. Those who were released in Jericho and not allowed to return to their homes in the West Bank say they've simply traded one jail cell for another. Do you plan to change your strategy?

[Peres] There are five or six hundred out in Jericho, and I think about 140 of them were already permitted to leave Jericho.

[Ommachen] But only a few days ago, I was talking to Col. Jibril al-Rujub, chief of security and protect in Jericho, and he described Israel's conditions of release as deplorable and said restricting the men to Jericho was unjust. Are there going to be any extended efforts to address this volatile issue?

[Peres] We are checking it very carefully, and we don't want to add any extra burden on the Palestinians. On the contrary, we'd like to see them as successful.

[Ommachen] I'm sure you realize that many Palestinian leaders—including Faysal al-Husayni—insist that Israel's disparity in releasing prisoners and your refusal to allow all deportees to return is proof that Israel is still placing obstacles in the path of peace. How do you respond to such an assessment?

[Peres] Some of them will say that they want to kill you. Do you release them? Some of them didn't want to sign a commitment that they won't return or go about the business of violence. What do they expect us to do? Now, half of the prisoners were already released. Over 5,000. It's quite unprecedented.

But, we don't want to release those who say that they intend to carry on terror and violence. It doesn't make sense.

[Ommachen] Can Palestinians expect the eventual release of these prisoners, or has the final decision been made if they don't sign papers?

[Peres] On the signing of the papers, that's not a final issue. They can change their minds.

[Ommachen] Regarding the upcoming Palestinian elections, is Israel willing to let Jerusalem Palestinians participate?

[Peres] Yes, but it depends on which way—in a passive or an active way. And that's being discussed: to be elected is passive and to vote is active.

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[Ommachen] And Israel's position is to prefer passive participation?

[Peres] We didn't go into it, but I would say yes.

[Ommachen] Do you regard the Palestinians' goal of obtaining East Jerusalem as their capital as some sort of pipe dream?

[Peres] It will never happen.

You see one must distinguish between the religious principle and political jurisdiction (like the distinction Jordan has made). There's no sense in turning Jerusalem into a Berlin with a wall in its heart. Religiously it should be open to all believers without discrimination. To look upon Jerusalem in a religious sense, makes much more sense.

[Ommachen] Many of the Palestinian leadership say they don't acknowledge Israel's authority over East Jerusalem and some have criticized Jordan for discussing the issue of religious authority with Israel rather than the Palestinian Authority. Do you recognize this issue as a source of contention between Jordan and the PLO?

[Peres] I think it's a mistake. At first Palestinians wouldn't recognize the state of Israel. Now, they won't recognise the capitol of Israel. But one should distinguish between the political side and the relgious side. Politically, you go with agreements. Religiously, you go upon precedent. And Jordan has a precedent in Jerusalem, which we do not intend to take away.

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### IMF Turns Down Request To Cancel Foreign Debts

*JN1509100894 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 15*

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that the Jordanian Government has received signals from the U.S. Administration that the IMF turned down a request by U.S. President Bill Clinton to write off Jordan's foreign debts because the IMF has reservations about Jordan's fiscal policies.

Informed sources also revealed that Clinton's request was also opposed by current experts in the U.S. Administration on the premise that Jordan's debts to the United States are divided into two parts; the first is governmental and the Congress has the power to decide on it, and the second is owed to private financial institutions and cannot be written off.

The sources said that in response to an IMF suggestion, the U.S. Government decided to write off Jordan's debts in stages, during which Jordan would change its economic course.

As regards debts to other countries, AL-BAYAN learned that the U.S. Administration asked the Jordanian Government to discuss this issue with the creditor countries, who showed a positive response to cooperate after they received letters from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In a related development, Jordanian economic sources said the United States gave the Jordanian Government proposals, made in the form of conditions, to start joint ventures between the two countries. The sources said that Washington said legislations and instructions hampering foreign investment must be removed or amended and that an appropriate atmosphere for encouraging foreign investment must be introduced, alleging that certain Jordanian legislation on investment does not provide the appropriate atmosphere to attract U.S. investments. The proposals also include the establishment of a branch for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Amman to help attract U.S. firms, discussion of investment opportunities, and an effective role and contribution to activate the Jordanian and Israeli economies in the fields of commerce, banks, and the development of the Dead Sea area, Wadi al-'Arabah, and Jordan Valley.

The Jordanian Finance Ministry is currently reviewing all the fiscal laws, such as the customs law and the income tax law to introduce the necessary amendments.

### King Receives Egyptian Air Force Commander

*JN1409163594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Egyptian Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr. During the meeting, they exchanged views on means of cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the aviation field between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Major General Muhammad al-Qudah, chief of staff of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

### Chairman of Joint Chiefs Returns From UK Visit

*JN1409183294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, returned to Amman this evening following an official visit to the United Kingdom lasting several days.

During the visit, al-Ka'abinah met with Field Marshal (Peter Inj), chairman of the British defense staff [title as heard], and a number of senior military officials. They discussed aspects of cooperation and military issues of mutual interest.

The chief of staff of the Royal Ground Forces welcomed al-Ka'abinah upon his return home.

### Al-Majali, Australian Minister Hold Talks

*JN1409182794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has held talks in the Prime Ministry with Australian Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Nick Bolkus. The talks highlighted bilateral ties, developments in the peace process, and steps leading to the settlement of all issues related to the Middle East problem.

Dr. al-Majali underlined Jordan's obvious and firm attitude that the peaceful solution should be just and comprehensive. He said the steps that followed the Washington declaration aimed to substantiate Jordan's peaceful trends through confidence-building measures and producing a positive spirit to achieve a just solution for sovereign issues of water and border.

The premier welcomed Australia's readiness to support the infrastructure projects the Palestinians need in the Gaza Strip, stressing the historic and special Jordanian-Palestinian relations, since both have joint interests. Dr. al-Majali said one of the kingdom's constants is that the Palestinian brethren realize their objectives so that peace be permanent, comprehensive, and genuine reality in the region. He added that the international community can no longer accept flash points, and the global inclination is to settle disputes peacefully in the light of changes in the world.

The guest minister expressed Australia's backing of the Washington declaration as an important step and a major achievement on the path to a comprehensive, regional peace. He described Australian-Jordanian relations in all fields as solid. Asked about his country's

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economic support for Jordan, he replied that it is important for Jordan and other regional states to continue the peace process. He also emphasized the necessity to establish the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian self-rule areas, saying his country contributes to such development plans through the UN agencies and certain nongovernment organizations.

### Hasan To Lead Delegation to Casablanca Summit

*JN1509064894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 22*

[Report by Maysa' Ghayth]

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has told AL-DUSTUR that the economic summit conference—which will convene in Casablanca on 30 October under the patronage of King Hassan II and with personal backing from U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and which will be attended by some 2,000 politicians, economists, businessmen, leaders, and investors from around the world—will concentrate on the following topics:

1. The Jordanian economy.

2. The Moroccan economy, and

3. The Palestinian economy in particular.

Al-'Anani added that there will be dialogues and private meetings, particularly among businessmen, to exchange ideas on various projects. He noted that specialized committees will be set up within the conference to discuss prominent issues.

Dr. al-'Anani added: The Jordanian delegation will concentrate on five major committees, namely, the human capital committee, the water committee, the trade committee, the infrastructure committee, and a committee set up at Jordan's request on the plan to develop the Jordan Valley.

Dr. al-'Anani concluded his statement to AL-DUSTUR by saying Prince Hasan will lead the Jordanian delegation, which will include a number of ministers, economists, and businessmen. He noted that his highness will deliver a speech at the opening session, which will be attended by senior officials. His highness will also deliver a lecture on the economic future in the region at the closing session.

### House Speaker al-Masri on Peace, Normalization

*JN1509102094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 34*

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri has said that any peace agreement between Jordan and Israel should eventually be presented to the Jordanian House of Representatives to approve it.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, the House of Representatives speaker said it will not be difficult to get the house's support if the agreement's clauses are acceptable to the deputies and the Jordanian people.

In his comment on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, Tahir al-Masri emphasized that the Jordanian negotiator is negotiating in a proper manner and will get an appropriate peace agreement, and then the House of Representatives will make the appropriate decision about this agreement.

On a referendum on the subject of negotiations, al-Masri said: The Jordanian Constitution does not mention anything about referendum, but there is nothing that opposes it. As the House of Representatives speaker, I do not agree with holding a referendum because the house, which is elected by the people, has a role, and it is the side that expresses the people's view.

Al-Masri hoped that coolness in the Jordanian-Palestinian relations will not continue, and emphasized that bonds between Jordan and Palestine cannot be eliminated.

On the decision to disengage administrative and legal links between Jordan and the West Bank, al-Masri said he prefers to answer this question in his personal capacity and not as a House of Representatives speaker. He said he was not with that decision when it was adopted, but now he is against abrogating that decision. He said restoring unity between Jordan and Palestine should be built anew on bases that may be different because the conditions in Jordan and Palestine are different now. He emphasized that this should not be a pretext for anyone to influence the internal situation or the national unity in Jordan.

On a possible meeting with the Israeli Knesset speaker, and his possible visit to the West Bank, al-Masri said any meeting or visit should be held within its right course and through the right channels. He added that haste is harmful, and the same is the case with anything that does not take place on time. Likewise, normalization that does not take into consideration the psychological motives in the region is also harmful.

Al-Masri added: As for the visit to the West bank, I was born in Nabulus, and my family is still living there, and I have the right to visit these places. However, I do not want to visit these places while I am the House of Representatives speaker, therefore, you may see me in the West Bank and Nabulus soon, but in my personal capacity.

### Editor on Improving Ties With Gulf States

*JN1409131994 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 14 Sep 94 p 2*

[Article by Editor in Chief Tariq Masarwah: "Improving Relations With Saudi Arabia and Kuwait"]

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[Text] If we really want to improve relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, then it will be in the interest of all Arabs, and not just Jordan. Any relations between two countries in this world are in the interest of both countries. Jordanian officials should control themselves and watch their words. We should stop humiliating our country in the name of Arab ranks, Arab action, and the rest of these meaningless terms. Differences over our country's policy during the Gulf war does not justify the atrocities against the Jordanians in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

There is an inclination to blame the Jordanian press for the deterioration in Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This is something insipid. If Jordanian officials find it easy to say that the officials in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are still holding on to articles and news reports that appeared in the Jordanian press, we can reply that we also have pieces of papers and other evidence even more serious than this.

Let us be frank and say that the officials in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait believe that they have the right to do things that harm our country, but they are upset if we do the same thing. They believe that their money gives them this right and that they can buy Jordanian and even non-Jordanian policies. Some officials in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia even believe that they bought the U.S., British, and French Armies to fight for them. We and the whole world have seen this ridiculous belief, which was embodied by the tribal policy at the end of the twentieth century.

Let us be franker: Lest no Jordanian official accuse the Jordanian press or brag about his achievements in restoring Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, we say that it is Washington which decides on the anger of the Saudi or Kuwaiti officials. Washington is the one deciding the size of their anger and reactions. It is also the one deciding when this anger should begin and when it should end.

The Jordanian press honorably defended the Arab cause and our country's faithful, clean, and brave policy against the most hideous invasion the Arab homeland has been exposed to since the invasions of Hulegu and Timur Lenk.

Thanks to the prestige he enjoys in the world, King Husayn tried to avert war in our region, and to save this region from destruction and plundering and to safeguard Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. King Husayn thought the Arabs could solve their problems, just like he did with his partner [late Egyptian President] Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir when Kuwait became independent in the sixties. However, his failure this time was the most honorable failure in the history of Arab politics. He could not, by himself, and in the absence of great 'Abd-al-Nasir, stop the hurricane, and consequently, the catastrophe has befallen us.

The imagination of the people in Riyadh and Kuwait that they have "triumphed" in the Gulf war is a tribal imagination. We were all defeated, and the proof is the situation of these two states, and the U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the entire Arab homeland.

There is no need to kneel down if what is required is to improve our relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We hope that the information minister will curb the clamor affecting our official news media on such occasions, because the restoration of relations is no favor to our country.

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### Junblatt Apologizes to Sweden for Sheltering Spy

*NC1409172394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] More and more scandals and political blunders are cropping up despite apologies and attempts to justify them. In the latest scandal, Sweden has accused Minister Walid Junblatt of giving refuge in his own home to a spy for four years. As usual, Minister Junblatt simply apologized for the matter. He apologized to the Swedish Government today. He told REUTER that in 1990, and at the request of old friends in the former Soviet Communist Party, he gave shelter to an individual who was introduced to him as a British agricultural expert named (Ronald Abey). He said that in time, he learned that this man had another background. However, he noted that his friendship with the Soviets was very strong and that he still considers their help to him to be strategic.

Junblatt said that the man at first resided in al-Mukhtarah, and then he gave him a private home. It transpired that Junblatt's guest was (Steig Bragland), who was a senior official in the Swedish police and was convicted of spying for Moscow. He was given a life sentence in 1979.

### Shelling in South, Assassination Attempt Reported

*NC1409202494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] At approximately 1930 this evening, the occupation forces shelled the areas of Mlita and Jabal Safi with large-caliber artillery from their positions in al-Zaffatah. At approximately 1800, the enemy forces raked the outskirts of 'Arab Salim and Jarju' with heavy machine guns.

In another development, a Hizballah media source said there was an assassination attempt against one of the party's cadres, Muhammad Ni'mah Nasir and his family, in Haddathah. The source added that Nasir, his wife, and child escaped without injury after their house was hit by a rocket.

### 'Hostile Measures' Directed Toward Muslims in France

*NC1509103794 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0550 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[From the "Spotlights on Events" program: "The Problem of the Headscarf"]

[Text] The French Government's decision to ban girls from wearing headscarves in school comes against the backdrop of a rising campaign of hostility toward the Islamic presence in France. Recently Muslims have been the target of a series of hostile measures on the grounds that they refuse to become part of French society and adhere to their own tradition and culture.

A campaign of racial discrimination against Muslims led by highly influential cultural circles is under way in France. The campaign is based on a desire to maintain French purity and resist any cultural multiplicity. Muslims must choose one of three things: To assimilate culturally, which requires surrendering their own identity, leave, or face constant persecution. The French Government, backed by some influential cultural and political circles, is trying to explain that most French people have chosen a secular attitude in life and, accordingly, Muslims must be absorbed by this option chosen by the majority. If not, the Muslims' dissimilarity would remain a threat to the society's quest for full secularism.

French secularism, if authentic, should not object to beliefs or practices by any community or faction as long as these practices do not conflict with rules and laws or stir fanaticism. Secularism should permit groups to move within their options as long as these options do not abuse the society's liberalism and multiplicity or create fanaticism. But to ban the scarf on the grounds that it affects society's quest for secularism is debatable and hard to swallow.

The scarf is simply a piece of clothing that reflects an affiliation; it does not prevent assimilation or convergence with others. It is a uniform like any other uniform and fashion. Its symbolizing an identity is no reason to ban it or make it a target of war. The background of the issue seems to relate to the fanatical and fundamentalist tendency that is taking root in France, where the cultural elite is less tolerant toward groups with different cultural origins. It is a serious problem, widespread in France and in West Europe in general. People cannot be incriminated because of their identity. Western secularism highlights this. Incrimination should target attempts to violate laws and public order. So the issue concerns a French complex of fear and anxiety over the rising Islamic cultural influence in France as opposed to the spiritual and cultural vacuum of the secular and liberal movements, which have failed to provide intellectual answers and solutions to many questions posed by contemporary challenges.

That large groups of French people are converting to Islam is no crime, certainly not in a country that brags much about freedom. Islam in France imposes no hegemony. The Muslims are not officially recognized, unlike the Jews, who continue to have influence over the higher French quarters and circles. Muslims in France are not an isolated community. They are an active community and constitute the second largest such group in the country, which means that they contribute positively to the cultural, economic, scientific, and community activity there.

We fail to understand how France could renounce its own citizens in the late 20th century simply because they have particular cultural origins. We fail to understand how France can speak of human rights and yet ban the veil on the grounds of offending secularism. Aren't there many offensive phenomena that give a bad name to France, its security, and stability and threaten the cohesion of its society? Why doesn't France adopt the same stance on these things?

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### Vice President Undergoes 'Successful' Surgery

*MM1409123094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 94 p 1*

[Unattributed report "Syrian Vice President Undergoes Surgery in Paris"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam underwent surgery at the American Hospital in Paris yesterday morning.

Informed Syrian sources have said that the operation was successful.

Khaddam will be recuperating for three days under medical supervision in a villa owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in the French capital.

The nature of the operation is not known exactly. Some sources spoke of the removal of a "cyst" above one of the kidneys.

In the past, Syrian Vice President Khaddam underwent medical tests for the liver. He arrived in Paris on Sunday after participating in the Syrian People's Assembly's opening session on Saturday.

### Egypt's al-Baz Visits Khaddam

*NC1409171094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Paris, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today visited Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at the American Hospital to inquire after his health after his surgery. Egyptian Ambassador to France 'Ali Mahir accompanied al-Baz on the visit.

Sources close to the Syrian vice president have said that Khaddam underwent successful surgery to remove a benign liver cyst. They said that his condition is reassuring.

Khaddam checked into hospital the day before yesterday, Monday.

### Health Minister, Lebanese Counterpart Hold Talks

*JN1409173294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Aug 94 p 2*

[Excerpt] Damascus (SANA)—A session of talks was held yesterday between Syrian Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti and his Lebanese counterpart Health Minister Marwan Hamadah in the presence of Nasir Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council.

At the outset of the meeting, Khuri praised the wise national, pan-Arab, and political stands pursued by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He noted the important work of the Syrian-Lebanese Committee for Health Cooperation, the steps it has taken, and the efforts it is exerting for the wellbeing and interest of the people in both fraternal countries.

Hamadah praised Syria's pan-Arab stands toward Lebanon and its people, noting the various forms of support and assistance given to Lebanon, especially in the health field.

Dr. al-Shatti affirmed that President Hafiz al-Asad's directives to stimulate the work of the joint committees express the nation's awareness that we are one people in two countries. The minister affirmed that Syria is determined to provide all necessary aid and support to Lebanon and to develop existing relations of fraternity and cooperation in all fields.

The conferees then reviewed and discussed the steps that have been accomplished by the Joint Syrian-Lebanese Committee for Health Cooperation and the means for developing this cooperation. They also set the implementation steps for the work of subcommittees, especially in the fields of first aid, rehabilitation, training, and medicine. [passage omitted]

### Saudi Businessman Interviewed on Cement Project

*JN1409185594 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 8*

[Interview with Saudi investor Hani Fa'ur al-Fa'uri by 'Abd- al-Fattah 'Awad; place and date not given]

[Text] ['Awad] First, we would like to know about the projects you intend to carry out in Syria.

[Al-Fa'uri] We are now taking quick steps to establish a cement factory in Syria with the participation of the government, whose contribution is 25 percent. The remaining 75 percent will be contributed by Prince Sultan Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Samih Muhammad Tuban, and Hani Fa'ur. We have obtained the approval of the Ministries of Industry and Economy, and we will shortly receive the necessary license to set up the project.

['Awad] What is the project's capital and what is its production capacity?

[Al-Fa'uri] The factory's production capacity will be 1 million tonnes annually. Its capital will be $200 million. The factory will employ a fairly large number of Syrian workers. Furthermore, we will use the raw materials available in Syria. We are eager to get the factory off the ground.

['Awad] How did the idea begin and what has encouraged you to invest in Syria?

[Al-Fa'uri] Actually, the idea began last year when we studied the cement market in Syria. We noticed the existence of a gap between production and consumption. We were encouraged to come to Syria by many things;

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mainly the ideal investment atmosphere, the security and political stability—which is better than anywhere else, and the recent measures which have encouraged investment, especially Investment Law No. 10 of 1991, which grants investors excellent facilities and exemptions. We were also encouraged to come to Syria by the great freedom given to the private sector. I would like to refer here to the positive attitude of the prime minister and the ministers of economy and industry who all encouraged us to invest in Syria and helped us in understanding all matters relating to investment in this splendid country.

['Awad] You have projects in Europe and the United States; what is special about Syria

[Al-Fa'uri] Stability. We feel more secure in Syria than in any other country. The sound economic decisions have given us more reassurance. For instance, in Europe and the United States our investments are confined to real estate. In Syria, however, the situation will be different. We will pay greater attention to productive projects.

['Awad] How do you, as an Arab investor, view the Syrian economy?

[Al-Fa'uri] Actually, and this is a general impression about the Syrian economy which is shared by all Arab economists whom I have met, the Syria economy has improved at unusual and tremendous speed. Syrian economists have succeeded in maintaining a balanced economy while others are fumbling.

['Awad] Are you thinking of other new projects in Syria?

[Al-Fa'uri] A project for another cement factory with a capacity of 1 million tonnes annually and a capital of $200 million is under study. The partners in this project, in addition to the Syrian Government, are investors from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. I believe that our knowledge of Syrian economic conditions is getting better, which is why we are thinking of investing our funds in other new projects. This will be soon, God willing.

['Awad] What benefits do you expect to get from investment in Syria?

[Al-Fa'uri] The benefits are mutual. As far as Syria is concerned, the benefit is providing the local market with cement, employing manpower, and exploiting raw materials. For our part, we expect to receive very good revenues from our projects in Syria. So, you can see that they are good mutual benefits for both sides.

## Paper Urges Caution After Cement Incident

*JN1409184194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 8*

["Frankly Speaking" column by 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Awad: "Important, Urgent, But Not Secret"]

[Text] A little bird told us that the Ministry of Supply seized several bags of black cement carrying the trade marks of the Tartus and 'Adra Cement Companies. An analysis of their contents showed that the cement was mixed with at least 35 percent calcium bicarbonate. Such a high percentage of calcium means that the cement cannot be used in foundations and roofs. Further investigation revealed that the cement carried invoices issued by a branch of the Military Housing Establishment. Our little bird also told us that the subject was somehow wrapped up and shelved.

This is a serious matter. But what is even more serious is how can we make sure that this type of cement is not actually being used in building schools for our children, houses, and public buildings. Who can prevent the possibility of this case from being repeated in the future?

Despite the assurances of the Military Housing Establishment that this was an isolated incident resulting from the need for bags, we say that one cannot stop people from selling used cement bags. The establishment said that bags usually carry a warning that a certain types of cement can only be used with clay. This time a mistake was made, and it was not a simple one.

The cement which is produced by Syrian cement companies is subject to Specifications Ordinance No. 44. Under these specifications, Syrian cement is considered of high quality. When another quarter produces cement under its own specifications, its bags must carry its name, the type of cement contained, and the specifications under which it was produced.

The matter is definitely not simple. It must be followed up because it is not an administrative error which can be avoided or a decision which can be canceled, but a matter that affects human life. Please pay attention to this important and urgent—but not secret—matter.

## Paper on 'Full Story' of GMC Production Plant

*JN1409174894 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 8*

[Report by Jihad al-Na'san: "The Full Story on Building General Motors Cars in Syria; Project To Be Implemented by Arab-American Industries Corporation; GMC To Provide Expertise and Technology"]

[Text] The idea of launching a car production plant, in cooperation with the General Motors Corporation [GMC], dates back to 1984, when GMC held its first contacts with the Syrian Government in this regard. The purpose of the initial contacts was to build a plant for producing pickup trucks. Initial efforts in this regard did not yield any results. Nonetheless, the contacts continued in 1985-86. Then, the Syrian Government rejected the conditions set by GMC. The contacts held with the State Enterprise for Engineering Industries showed that the idea had not ripened yet, and that the gaps between GMC and the Ministry of Industry were too wide to bridge.

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At the time, GMC set the condition that Syria should purchase 12,000 cars in advance. It also set the condition that it be granted tax exemptions, as well as facilities for transferring and buying foreign currency.

Mr. Nicholas Antakli, who accompanied the technical delegations that visited Syria in his capacity as a GMC adviser, has said that the contacts were concluded then. Nonetheless, they were resumed in the aftermath of the passage of the Investment Encouragement Law No. 10 of 1991, upon his own personal initiative after the company he chairs; namely, Intraco Corporation [preceding two words in English], and GMC had reached an agreement, according to which the former will distribute and sell the latter's productions in Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian markets.

Antakli added that he raised the issue with GMC once again in 1991, and was authorized by GMC to hold talks with the Syrian Government on its behalf.

I recall having held a press interview with Antakli in 1992, in which I addressed the project idea, which was met with strong opposition then. The interview was published on the "Economy" page.

Antakli, along with three expatriates of Syrian origin holding Ph.D. degrees, had launched a company called the Arab-American Industries Corporation. The founders of this corporation totaled eight people. As for the three Ph.D. holders, they were Faruq 'Ubayd, Pierre Zayyat, and Salih Husayni.

Antakli said that the corporation was established in late 1991 and early 1992. The sole purpose of this corporation was to set up and launch a plant for producing GMC cars in Syria, particularly in the aftermath of the issuance of the Law No. 10 of 1991, which made possible the implementation of this highly important and vital project.

As I have just said, the corporation was established in late 1991. It was registered in the British-controlled Virgin Islands. It made a deposit of $1 million at the National Bank of Detroit as reserves. The corporation was registered in the British-controlled Virgin Islands due to the smooth operations there, and also for the tax exemptions granted.

GMC conducted the initial project study. The study underwent some changes, however. Later, the Modern Engineering Corporation, a major engineering company of high international reputation, was asked to conduct a new study on the project. This company had designed car production plants in Germany, Europe, Japan, and the United States.

The new study, along with a request for launching the car production plant, were submitted to the Higher Investment Council.

Mr. Antakli, who visited Syria several times to discuss this issue and other issues related to the distribution of GMC cars in Syria, stated that the start was very difficult, and that the Higher Investment Council did not promptly endorse the project despite the numerous contacts held with Syrian officials.

Upon his departure from Syria in late 1992, Mr. Antakli sounded somewhat pessimistic. He then spoke to me on the issue, dwelling on the difficulties that he faced. These difficulties were caused by an inability to reconcile the provisions enshrined in the Investment Law and the terms set by his corporation.

I recall having been told by him that his situation would be difficult if the Higher Investment Council did not endorse his project. He would face difficulties with his partners, who trusted him with their money, he said. But, he appeared not to have run out of luck.

It is to be recalled that the Higher Investment Council, which formed a committee in late 1992 to discuss the issue, failed to decide on the car production plant project. It believed that the terms set by Antakli contravened the provisions enshrined in the Investment Law. But, upon Mr. Antakli's insistence, the Council granted him a qualified approval, provided that the exports of the Syrian-American Industries Corporation [name as published] be worth the foreign currency required to import production requirements, that the production be confined to pickup trucks, that the corporation secure the foreign currency, and that it be denied any protection privileges.

However, following continuous contacts, and having decided to collaborate with local firms, the company obtained initial approval on 8 May 1994.

Mr. Antakli says: After getting in touch with an excellent industrial firm in Aleppo, Abela, and holding several sessions with Hisham Mulqi, we decided to cooperate and go into partnership, especially given that the company is highly qualified technically, and can provide excellent services.

Abela played a crucial role in following up the question of obtaining a license.

I asked Mr. Antakli about their respective subscriptions and if they were planning to offer stock for sale. He said the percentages have yet to be fixed. The company, he added, intends to sell shares to the public despite the fact that the founding members number 14, including Syrian businessmen.

Asked about GMC's role in the project, he said: It will handle the entire technical side, including administration, and will not incur any expenses. It will be entitled to enter as a partner within two years of the start of production.

He said the most important problems, for the time being, were first, securing a license and, second, a plot of land to set up the plant.

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Asked about production, Mr. Antakli said our production, projected to begin within two years of obtaining the license, will be in the order of 30,000 vehicles, assuming we will be working three shifts. However, to begin with, the production will fall short of this target figure. The number of pickups, jeeps, and cars will be determined by market conditions.

The deputy director of GMC visited Damascus recently and met with the minister of economy and finance. He pronounced himself pleased and happy with the project. We can now say that we have begun, he said. He visited the Abela plant in Aleppo and familiarized himself with that firm's assets, with which he was impressed. He stressed that he was confident the plant can manufacture the required parts.

What about cost?

It is premature to go into this, says Antakli. We expect production costs to be low. Syria has excellent workers and engineers, and there are tax breaks according to Law No. 10.

Our production is geared toward the local market. We hope, however, to be able to export to the Lebanese and Jordanian markets.

About protection, he says: We have secured 10-year immunity under which none of the models—Chevrolet, Cadillac, or Buick—made by GMC will be allowed into the country. We would have preferred full-blown protection, but the government will not agree to this. We hope to get customs protection. Customs duties on the pickups is low, noted Mr. Antakli.

We have been given 10 years, by the end of which we will have produced 50 percent of the car's components, but I think that we will reach this level of production fairly quickly, given Abela's respectable capacity.

Mr. Antakli said in conclusion: I would like to thank his Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in particular for his sponsorship of the project. I also thank Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, who was especially helpful; the minister of finance and industry, the American ambassador in Damascus, and everyone who made this vital project possible.

I would like to point out that Mr. Antakli said in reply to a question about the prospects for his project: If other automakers, say from Japan, should express an interest in setting up similar plants in Syria, none, we have been promised, will be licensed.

News agency reports had quoted Western diplomatic sources as saying that Nissan plans to open an assembly plant in Syria.

### Foreign Bids on Pesticide Projects Considered

*JN1409172494 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 8*

[Text] The State Establishment for Chemical Industries has received offers from several foreign companies to implement agricultural pesticides projects that the establishment has planned to begin in the near future.

The bidding companies explained that it is not possible to produce certain items or to deal with certain highly poisonous substances due to their effect on the environment.

The establishment has completed its study of the technical bids offered by certain companies and is currently studying bids by other companies.

### New Sugar Factory in Hims Governorate Planned

*JN1409172794 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Aug 94 p 8*

[Excerpts] The State Sugar Establishment is studying the establishment of a new sugar factory in the central region in light of the increase in sugar-beet production.

The technical and economic feasibility study for the new factory has been prepared by the State Company for Technical Studies and Consultations. The study concludes that the quantity which will be available for refining in the new factory will be 150,000 tons of sugar-beet annually and that the refining will take 150 days; in other words, a refining capacity of 1,000 tons daily. The resultant quantity of refined white sugar will be 141,000 tons. [passage omitted]

According to the study, the total invested capital in the new factory will be 5.728 billion Syrian pounds. This capital will be recovered in eight years. The foreign currencies invested in the factory will be recovered in three years.

The study proposed a site for the new factory in al-Qasir region in Hims Governorate; or to be more precise, the area south of Tall al-Nabi Mindu as a first choice and al-'Abbudiyah as a second choice.

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## Afghanistan

### Former Intelligence Chief for Dostam Meets Reporters

*LD1409234194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[News conference by Major General Nur Mohammad Kohnaward, former intelligence chief for General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam's "so-called movement," with foreign and local correspondents, in Kabul on 13 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kohnaward] [Words indistinct] and then I am ready to answer your questions on any subject. Undoubtedly, the main cause of the current fighting and its continuing in our country, is foreign interference. [Words indistinct] the Government of Uzbekistan, led by Islam Karimov, is openly interfering in the internal affairs of the country. [Words indistinct] the communist regime of Islam Karimov in Uzbekistan, designed the plan of revolt [words indistinct] to topple the existing government of Afghanistan. In order to implement this plan, he coordinated the (?fighting) of Dostam-Hekmatyar in a [word indistinct] coalition. [passage indistinct]

Prior to the Dostam-Hekmatyar coup against the state on 11 Jadi [1 January], a delegation, led by Dostam, visited Uzbekistan. The following are the names of the delegation members:

Head of the delegation—Gen. Dostam; Gen. Begi, Dostam's chief of military operations; Gen. Usman, head of No. 15 force; Gen. Nur Mohammad, head of [word indistinct]; Gen. 'Abdorrazaq, head of artillery force; [word indistinct]; Gen. Waliollah, deputy chief of police; Gen. Malik [word indistinct]; Gen. Sadeq, head of the armored force; and Gen. Mostafa [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

At the talks the delegation put forward a proposal to the opposite side, that is to the minister of defense of Uzbekistan, concerning the requirement for a large amount of weapons and ammunition consisting of tanks, aircraft, and ammunition for heavy and light weapons. These weapons were then dispatched to Mazar-e Sharif and Sheberghan on Kamaz trucks driven by Uzbek drivers. The dispatch of these weapon is still continuing. From the tanks which were given to Dostam, nine fell into the hands of the state in the area of Sorkh Baytal, near Konduz River. I saw this. The rest of the tanks were transferred to Sheberghan, Baghlan, and Mazar-e Sharif. A number of them are now being used in Doshi. [passage omitted]

He [Dostam] committed countless crimes. He started murder and killing, first of all, in Faryab and Jowzjan against the Uzbeks. The rate of his crimes against all nationalities, in particular against the Uzbeks, has gone up during the past two years. Thousands of Uzbek families have fled to Jowzjan from fear of Dostam and his militia's atrocities. Dozens of Uzbek personalities were killed in Faryab Province. [passage omitted]

In order to implement the plan and objective of the communist regime of Uzbekistan, Dostam is trying to break up Afghanistan. This is obviously threatening peace and stability in the neighboring countries and in the whole region. I have personally seen crimes he committed against the people of Afghanistan in the country, and when I found out about his loyalty and subservience to aliens, I was awaiting an appropriate opportunity to leave his ranks and join the Islamic State. I have done this [words indistinct].

Since the coup Dostam has lost seven aircraft and a large number of tanks in Kabul, Baghlan, and Konduz. He has now two [name indistinct] aircraft, one transport plane, and several [word indistinct] training planes, used for the transport of soldiers. He is now using training planes to bomb the north.

[TV military program correspondent Zabehollah] You said earlier that the so-called national movement has no national ideology. On the basis of which principle did Golboddin and Dostam get together [words indistinct]?

[Kohnaward] Dostam has no political agenda, and his organization is not a strong one. [Words indistinct] he is a wrestler [pahlawan]. His friends are all wrestlers: Rasul Pahlawan, Dostam Pahlawan, and Ghafar Pahlawan. Everything is run by these three pahlawan.

[Question indistinct]

[Kohnaward] Uzbek advisers are present. There is no doubt in this respect; they are here. The dispatch of weapons, ammunition, and supplies is under way. Supplies are being transported by the Uzbek drivers. The planes that are carrying out bombings take off from Sheberghan airfield.

[Question indistinct]

[Kohnaward] Karmal is now living in Hayratan.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you assess Karmal's role in the leadership of the National Islamic Movement and in the coup of 1 January?

[Kohnaward] Karmal and his supporters are playing a role in Dostam's leadership.

[Question and answer indistinct]

[Unidentified correspondent] What do you think? Is there only one country assisting Dostam, or are others doing this too? You have said that the coup plan was masterminded in Uzbekistan. Was there any other country involved?

[Kohnaward] Uzbekistan had a major role in designing this coup. Military installations and military equipment were put at the disposal of Dostam by Uzbekistan. Dostam consults Uzbekistan on all issues. A meeting was held between Hekmatyar and Dostam in Qalacha, at

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which I was present. The talks continued for 20 minutes, and then they held a conversation for 10 minutes in private.

[BBC correspondent William Reeves, in English] Good afternoon. You have mentioned that Gen. Dostam only has two SU-22 planes. Could you tell me how many MiG's he has and how many [words indistinct] he has all together?

[Kohnaward] As I said, most of his aircraft were shot down and the pilots killed during the current fighting. Two [word indistinct] planes are operational at present. One transport plane is also operational. A battalion of [word indistinct] planes, which were stationed in Mazar-e Sharif and used for the transportation of students, are now being used in the current fighting. There is one battalion of (?AERO L-39), made in Czechoslovakia, a training battalion having 12 planes. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] You spoke about Uzbekistan's assistance to Dostam, and you have said that a number of tanks and military equipment were given to Dostam. Can you specifically say how many tanks and from which type? Can you also say how many infantry Gen. Dostam has?

[Kohnaward] (?Uzbekistan) assisted Dostam with about 40 tanks, in addition to sufficient light and heavy weapons, as I have said earlier. Dostam's force totals about 70,000 armed men, who are stationed in various places. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you assess morale in Gen. Dostam's forces? [passage indistinct]

[Kohnaward] For the last 18 months, Gen. Dostam's men and personnel have not received their wages. The movement has reached the bottom from the economic point of view. A large amount of cash is being sent to the front line and spent there, with Uzbekistan's help. The rest of the movement's personnel are hungry and homeless. They live on whatever they plunder during an operation.

[Unidentified correspondent] During the period when the Movement stood up against the Islamic State and Dostam revolted, the money now in circulation in Mazar-e Sharif, where is it coming from? And what kind of money is it?

[Kohnaward] As I have said, some cash has been given by Uzbekistan and some by Turkey earlier—$5 million.

[BIA correspondent Azidyar] Azidyar, from the BIA. What is the effect of the state's recent conquests in Tapa-e Maranjan, Balahesar, and in Konduz, the north of Afghanistan. How did this effect the morale of the enemy's forces and Dostam's militia?

[Kohnaward] Obviously, this has affected the morale in a special way. The bases in Kabul fell, particularly Konduz where a large number of personnel, tanks, and artillery were left behind, which fell into the hands of the state. The morale of personnel in the north is directly affected. [passage indistinct]

### 'Serious' Clashes Result in Heavy Losses

*LD1409190194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Serious clashes have flared up since last night west of Kabul between the forces of Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement] and Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party].

Reports from the western regions of Kabul say that last night around 0330 serious clashes flared up between the forces of the Harakat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Wahdat in the areas of Alauddin and Dar ol Aman. The fighting quickly spread to other areas. Eyewitnesses said that scattered fighting also broke out this morning between the belligerent parties in Pol-e Sokhta of Karta-e III, Qala'eh-ye Shada, and other areas in the west of Kabul. These regions were relatively peaceful by this afternoon.

The cause of these clashes, resulting in heavy loss of life, is not yet clear. During the fighting, however, the Golboddin militia, backing Hezb-e Wahdat, subjected the Harakat-e Eslami positions to heavy and light weapon fire. Recent reports say that fighting calmed down this afternoon. Scattered clashes are still continuing in some areas.

### Golboddin Reportedly Kills Well-Known Commander

*LD1409231094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] By the order of Golboddin, a well-known commander of the Hezb-e Eslami, was recently assassinated in Logar Province.

According to reports received by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, commander Badr, a well-known commander of Golboddin's in Logar Province, was killed by the Golboddin's security personnel and by his direct order, on charges of disobeying anti-Islamic and anti-humane orders issued by Golboddin.

It was said that the order for the assassination of the influential personalities who are against the Dostam militia and do not want these murderers in their regions, was issued to this commander. Commander Badr seriously opposed this order and refused to execute Golboddin's criminal order.

Golboddin could not tolerate commander Badr's disobedience and issued the order for his execution and this was implemented.

The assassination has aroused the hatred and repulsion of the inhabitants and mojahedin in Logar Province.

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## Bangladesh

### Zia Notes Failure of Antigovernment Movement

*BK1509105994 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury has refuted the allegations made by the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, that her telephones were being bugged, letters censored, and she is being kept under observation by the members of intelligence agencies. In a statement at the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] last night, the home minister said the allegations are completely baseless, fabricated, and politically motivated.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said her government has been materializing all its election pledges and 80 percent of them have already been implemented. She called upon the people to resist the destructive activities of some political parties for the sake of development, production, and democracy. The prime minister was addressing a big public meeting at Asif Mahmud Government University College premises in Jamalpur yesterday.

Begum Zia accused some political parties of disrupting the ongoing program for development and production and democratic process through their frequent hartals [general strike] and sieges. She said hartals and sieges lead to sufferings and injustices to the people. Begum Zia said the failure of the 10 September Dhaka siege program by some opposition parties had demonstrated the fact that the people are not [words indistinct] destruction, chaos, and disruptive activities. The prime minister said people have given BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] the mandate to run the country for five years and they will again give their decisions through their verdict by judging the performance of the present government after five years.

Responding to some local demands, the prime minister said efforts will be made to turn the Jamalpur Sadar Hospital into a 250-bed one, make Jamalpur-Islampur-Dewanganj road pucca [concrete], construct a bridge over the River Chinai and another bridge over old Brahmaputra River. Earlier, Begum Zia inaugurated the new science building of Asif Mahmud Government University College and opened honors course for two subjects in the college.

## India

### Spokesman Denies 5,000 Troops Planned for Haiti

*BK1509091594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] New Delhi has denied press reports that India is to send 5,000 troops to Haiti for UN peacekeeping mission. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that India has only agreed to cooperate in the second phase of UN mission in Haiti. This will include assistance in rehabilitation and establishment of an environment conducive to democratic process.

### Sikkim Political Party Merges With Congress-I

*BK1509061694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] The Sikkim Sangram Parishad—led by the chief minister, Mr. Sanchaman Limbo—has finally merged with the Congress-I. This was announced by the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, at a news conference in New Delhi today. He said Mr. L.S. Sarang, a former member of Parliament, has been appointed new president of Sikkim Pradesh Congress-I Committee. Mr. Limbo and the lone Rajya Sabha member from the state, Mr. Karma Topdek, were present at the news conference. Mr. Gadgil also announced that the Himachal Pradesh Congress-I Committee has been reconstituted with Mr. Sat Mahajan, a former state minister, as the president.

### Press Comments on Butrus-Ghali Mediation Offer

#### Offer Lacks 'Relevance'

*BK1409123994 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 13 Sep 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Thanks, But No!"]

[Text] Mr Butrus-Ghali said that he is prepared to "honestly mediate" between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir tangle. No one can doubt his intentions on a personal level to see that India and Pakistan become friends again, since he belongs to a country which can derive no advantage from this dispute. Moreover, as the secretary general of the United Nations, he is obliged to see that tension between these two countries does not escalate to armed confrontation. He is also right to point out that the danger of the use of atomic weapons in the event of war between them has been aggravated considerably since Nawaz Sharif's declaration that Pakistan possesses such a bomb. A just solution of a dispute can only be found if the basic factors causing it are recognized and honest efforts made to remove them. No matter how grave or complex a dispute becomes, the aggressor and aggrieved cannot be placed in the same bracket. If Butrus-Ghali really wants to solve the dispute through his mediation, he must first of all make Pakistan stop supporting terrorism and other subversive activities, especially in Kashmir. The Pakistani leadership not only considers conducting terrorist activities in Kashmir to be its right, it even goes to the extent of recruiting hired killers and so-called holy warriors from other countries. Apart from stopping these activities, Pakistan must also agree to stop portraying the Kashmir problem as a religious issue of the Muslim world. Since Butrus-Ghali took no initiative to receive such assurances from Pakistan, his offer to mediate has lost all relevance and meaning.

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Even from the practical standpoint, India cannot afford to accept this mediation offer. The experience of the last 46 years tells us that Pakistan and the Western powers have used the United Nations as a tool to weaken Indian interests. India had been facing this Western conspiracy on the strength of the veto power of the estwhile Soviet Union. It was India which lodged the first complaint with the United Nations concerning the Kashmir problem. The main reason for the complaint was Pakistan's attack on Kashmir and illegal occupation of a large piece of its territory. The prejudice and influence of the United States and its Western allies left the complainant standing in the dock! Even the UN resolution, which Pakistan never tires of referring to, had as its first condition that Pakistan should vacate the Kashmiri territory it forcibly occupied before demanding a plebiscite. Unfortunately, the United Nations has not exerted any pressure on Pakistan to make it fulfill the first condition of the resolution. On the contrary, except for making superfluous enquiries on Pakistan's launch of a pseudo-war in the garb of terrorism on Indian soil, the Western countries even failed to sternly question Pakistan. India committed a mistake by asking for UN help in Kashmir, and we are still facing the unpleasant consequences of this. Now India cannot and should not commit this suicidal mistake again. The honest intentions of Butrus-Ghali can be appreciated, but the United Nations must still prove its honesty and genuine desire to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

### Offer 'Golden Opportunity'

*BK1409123594 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 13 Sep 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Dialogue on Kashmir Issue Is Necessary"]

[Text] Although Pakistan has a knack of using the shoulders of others to diplomatically cry on and thus create embarrassing situations for India, it is a matter of great satisfaction for India that neither Dr. Butrus-Ghali nor U.S. Ambassador Wisner said anything to let Pakistan indulge in its tantrums. Both gentlemen, in their own ways, stressed the necessity to start dialogue between India and Pakistan. Butrus-Ghali offered his services as a mediator to initiate a dialogue on the Kashmir issue, while Wisner believes that plebiscite is not the only solution to the problem and that elections there would be a better and more democratic option. India has consistently stressed the need to start dialogue under the Simla Agreement, but Pakistan does not favor negotiations to solve the dispute. It is not only providing training and financial aid to the terrorists, but is sending hired killers to Kashmir to make the terrorist activities there even more gory and macabre. In fact, Pakistan is waging in Kashmir a less expensive form of war, forgetting totally that disputes are not settled by war but by negotiation, whether conducted before or after warfare. Modern wars are waged to improve or consolidate one's position in international affairs, but Pakistan knows it cannot defeat India in open war, its bomb notwithstanding. If the dialogue has to be initiated under any conditions; why not now?

Butrus-Ghali has provided a golden opportunity by offering to mediate the dialogue. If he is genuinely serious, he must bring both parties to the negotiating table. No doubt the mediator normally catches brickbats from both parties, but if genuine mediators begin to shy away for this reason, no international dispute could ever be solved by mediation. So, if Butrus-Ghali is sincere in his offer, he must make efforts to create political will in both countries, especially Pakistan, to open the dialogue.

Wisner's proposal of elections for Kashmir is also positive and constructive. India has repeatedly held elections in Kashmir, through which the people there have time and again endorsed the merger of Kashmir with India. Although Pakistani-sponsored terrorism has made conditions in Kashmir not conducive to holding elections there, they ought to be made so by putting pressure on Pakistan to leave Kashmir, bag and baggage. In any case, negotiation with Pakistan is the first option, even if it is to tell it the truth that it is occupying part of Kashmir illegally.

## Iran

### Velayati Interviewed on Tajik Peace Talks

*NC1409073394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Passages in boldface are recorded]

[Text] As you heard on the news, in continuation of the Tajik peace talks, a meeting of the interested parties convened in Tehran yesterday. In an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit, Foreign Minister Velayati explained why the talks are being held in Tehran.

**[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. Tajikistan and the problems that have arisen for the Muslim people in that country are among the significant problems faced by our region. Since the outset of the Tajikistan crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran has actively participated in solving problems there, and we have tried to achieve as quickly as possible a just and respectable solution that will serve the interests of the Tajik people.**

**On this basis, at the last meeting of the representatives of the Tajikistan Government and the opposition groups, held in Tehran with the participation of neighboring countries, initial results were achieved. However they did not reach a definite decision on ending the conflicts and starting a new phase of regional relations.**

**The unilateral call for elections by the Tajik Government, which was made outside the framework of the agreement that was reached in Tehran, was protested by international circles and neighboring countries. Therefore, the government postponed these elections, after which UN**

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**Envoy Piriz-Ballon and the Russian Foreign Ministry met with us in a bid to revive the static situation on Tajikistan's political scene. They asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to work seriously for this. During my visit to Central Asia, almost all the high-ranking officials in these republics also asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to use its influence and to strive harder for peace in Tajikistan. Thus, steps were taken and preparations were made; and today we see that all the interested parties are represented in Tehran at the highest level in the history of Tajikistan.**

**From all the discussions that I have had with them, I feel that today all the parties involved are more serious about establishing peace and we hope that we will have positive results at the end of the intense multilateral and bilateral talks in Tehran and thus prepare for the next official session, which will be held in October in Pakistan.**

The foreign minister also answered a question by the Central News Unit reporter on why the pace of the talks is so slow:

**[Velayati] The complicated nature of the problems of Tajikistan and the other newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, the sensitivity of this area, and efforts by some powers outside the region to impose their views and influence on this part of the world have actually helped to weaken the peace process. However today, more than ever before, we hope for a positive outcome, God willing.**

Velayati also discussed the current outlook and stands of the participants in the talks:

**[Velayati] During the session that was held several weeks ago in Tehran, Tajikistan Government representatives wanted the opposition to agree to a cease-fire and to leave the rest its demands to the talks. The opposition was not ready to do so. It believed that if a peace process is to begin, all the elements that can help promote peace should be acted on; that if they agree to a cease-fire, the Tajik Government too should agree to, say, a general amnesty and the release of political prisoners, the free participation of all parties in the parliamentary and presidential elections, and the honorable return of refugees. It also held that all these things should be tied to each other.**

**At that time, the Tajik Government refused. However, in our talks with Dostiyev, we actually saw some flexibility in their stands compared to the past and that they are ready to take steps to release political prisoners, grant freedom in the country, and allow the opposition to participate in the elections in return for a cease-fire agreement by the other side.**

## Official Voices Concern Over Kabul Clashes

*LD1509111494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] In his meeting today with the Afghan ambassador to Tehran, the deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern at the current clashes in Kabul. Mr. Ala'eddin Borujerdi said: The Afghan civil war is one of the most bitter current experiences of the Islamic world. The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the leaders of jehadi groups end this war of fratricide as soon as possible. He added: We hope the Afghan government is wise and shows self-restraint and deals with the current clashes in Kabul.

During his talks with the representative council of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] of Afghanistan, Mr. Borujerdi also expressed the extreme concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the involvement of Hezb-e Wahdat in the clashes. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly opposes the clashes. It hopes the flames of this fratricidal war are extinguished as soon as possible.

## Ministry Extends Afghan Refugees' Residence Permits

*LD1409184694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] The interior minister announced that the period of stay of those Afghan refugees who hold temporary residence permits has been extended by eight months because of the arrival of the cold season.

Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, in a meeting today with Ayatollah Fazel, one of the Afghan Shiite leaders, added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has made the decision as an Islamic-humanitarian duty. He said: 2 million Afghan refugees live in Iran.

At the meeting, Ayatollah Fazel—expressing regret over the continuation of clashes in Afghanistan—requested the Islamic Republic to show more consideration for Afghanistan. He thanked and praised the Islamic Republic of Iran for its 15-year-long hospitality to the Afghan mojahedin.

According to an agreement between the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Interior Ministry, Afghan refugees holding temporary residence permits were obliged to begin leaving Iran gradually as of 11 July.

## Refugees Continue To Arrive From Iraq

*LD1409220594 Tehran IRNA in English 2011 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Dezful, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 14, IRNA—The number of the Iraqi refugees, who have arrived in Hur-al-Howeizeh region, on Iran-Iraq border, seeking asylum reached 1,950.

An official at the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) told IRNA here Wednesday [14 September] that 450 more Iraqi refugees, mostly women, children and the elderly, crossed into the Iranian border region of Hemmat at Hur-al-Howeizeh over the past couple of days.

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The source said with arrival of the latest group the number of Iraqi refugees in Iran reached 1,950 from 1,500.

He said that the refugees are in urgent need of food [words indistinct] and there is fear of spread of epidemic diseases.

So far the international charity organizations have not offered any aid to these refugees who are living under deplorable conditions.

The refugees are residents of marshland in southern Iraq who have fled to the Iranian border region of Hur-al-Howeizeh escaping the atrocities of the Iraqi regime.

### Destruction of Nuclear Arsenals Urged at NPT Talks

*NC1509070094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has officially called for the destruction of nuclear weapons all over the world. According to IRNA, the Iranian permanent representative at the UN Europe office in Geneva addressed the preliminary session to appraise the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He said: Iran wants the destruction of the nuclear weapons of the nuclear powers of the world on the basis of a phased program. This is the main condition of the Islamic Republic of Iran's concurrence for the extension of the NPT.

Naseri declared that an inspection of the Zionist regime's nuclear installations is another of Iran's main conditions. The Iranian permanent representative to the Europe office of the United Nations in Geneva said: The occupationist Jerusalem regime's nuclear weapons have endangered the security of the Middle East.

Stressing the need for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Sirus Naseri called for the elimination of the present obstacles in the path of the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries that are NPT members. The NPT was signed in 1970 and since then 164 countries have signed. The NPT expires in 1995.

### ICPD Participation Seen as 'Pattern' for Others

*NC1409084994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] ended yesterday after 10 days of deliberations and discussion with a resolution on one of the most important social, political, and economic problems facing human society.

The active participation of the Iranian delegation in the conference altered the conference agenda in a big way to the benefit of the Islamic countries and the Third World. Abortion, which was propounded by the West as a family planning method, as well as phrases and words with double meanings were omitted from the ICPD document. The principles of the sovereignty of governments, national laws, and religious, cultural, and moral values were emphasized in the implementation of the Cairo conference decisions.

Political analysts believe that Iran's success in the conference, which was praised by countries that do not share its political views, has several causes. The first is that because of its political stability and its clear strategy, which relies on its Islamic and national culture, Iran adopted a policy on the ICPD from the start; this demonstrates our country's active stance on it. This comes at a time when the absence of a specific strategy on the conference found the other Third World countries adopting various stances demonstrating their lack of action.

The second point is that based on the political culture of the revolution, Iran had a successful experience in population control as a result of which population growth dropped from 3.2 percent to 1.8 percent. This success gave the Islamic Republic's firm logic on population control some backbone. Western countries that consider population control possible through abortion and free sex had no alternative but to laud Iran's success, especially as the experience of free sex may have controlled population growth, but it has given rise to numerous sick social phenomena. The disintegration of families and the birth of millions of illegitimate children in the West are the result of the West's culture of licentiousness, something that has placed these societies before numerous crises.

The spectacular presence and the laudable success of the Iranian delegation at the ICPD in Cairo show primarily that despite enemy propaganda the Islamic revolution is armed with a strong logic and a successful experience and can become a good pattern for other countries to follow.

### Asia Urged To Counter Western 'Cultural Invasion'

*LD1309124994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Text] The ninth meeting of Asia-Oceania news agencies opened in Beijing yesterday. In a speech at the meeting, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY deputy chief, Mohammad Hasan Ja'fari, stressed the need for setting up a communication system which can reflect the voice of Asian states at the world level, said: Without such a network, one cannot defend the sources of the regional states in countering the offensive of false information by the Western media.

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Mr Hasan Ja'fari, the head of the Iranian delegation to Asia-Oceania, said: The West, with the technology and the services it has at disposal, is trying through press and satellite communications to seriously undermine the identity of the values of Asian nations and of regional countries.

The IRNA managing director proposed that an assembly be held by the news agencies of the countries membering the (?OANA Asian) countries and the Caucasian region to discuss the ways for countering the cultural invasion of the West.

### Training Offered to Sierra Leone Media Workers

*NC1509065294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] The head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed readiness to train the specialists of Sierra Leone at the Voice and Vision training academy.

According to the Central News Unit, during the meeting that took place yesterday between Sierra Leone's minister of culture, information, and broadcasting with the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, cooperation between the two countries in the fields of news and culture was discussed and appraised.

During this meeting, the minister of culture, information, and broadcasting of Sierra Leone called for greater cooperation on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fields of information transmission, training of specialist cadres, and exchange of news.

### U.S.-Based Group Claims MKO Misusing Title

*LD1409124294 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] New York, Sep. 14, IRNA—A U.S.-based Iranian professional [word indistinct] protested against misuse of [its] title by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) for attracting Iranians residing abroad, it Wednesday [14 September] was reported [words indistinct].

Releasing a statement, the 'Society of Iranian Professionals' announced that it is not and [words indistinct] affiliated to any government or political group or party including MKO.

The terrorist MKO has been misusing the title of the cultural and professional groups or societies abroad as a means to attract Iranians residing abroad.

### Tehran Criticizes British Radio Time for Opposition

*LD1409234294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] A British radio station [Spectrum, which sold a daily one hour slot after midnight to Iranian opposition group] has been fined for broadcasting programs by the Monafeqin grouplet [pun on Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and contravening that country's 1990 broadcasting regulations.

The British 1990 regulations stipulate that private radio stations in that country can be put at the disposal of natural and corporate persons only when such persons are not affiliated to terrorist groups and do not become publicity tools for the propagation of controversial political stands which are against the public interest.

When the Monafeqin grouplet is given permission to indulge in terrorist activities and given financial assistance, the fining of the radio station for broadcasting the terrorist programs of the grouplet appears nothing but playing with the British public opinion.

### New Central Bank Governor Appointed

*LD1409175294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] The cabinet appointed Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh as the new governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran during a session today. At the meeting, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the former governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ending his five year term, thanked the president for his guidelines and the cabinet and praised all those involved in the banking system for their assistance.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our country's president, referred in a statement to the difficult stages after the war, the problem of a lack of financial resources, and the accumulated mass of expectations within the executive branch, the community, and the people's representatives for the more active running of the state economic system and for the beginning of reconstruction, as well as for raising the level of social welfare. He praised the outstanding role of state economic management and considered the efforts and services of the Central Bank and its governor in regulating and maintaining the needs of the state to be crucial. The president counted economic successes and the considerable reduction in the state requirements for hard currency for foreign goods as some of the important achievements of the period of the first five-year development plan.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to Mr. 'Adeli as one of the sincere and worthy managers of the country and expressed the hope that his experiences and capabilities will be utilized at high managerial levels.

At today's cabinet meeting, Education Minister Najafi briefed the cabinet on the Ministry's summer activities, as well as on its programs and problems during the current year [beginning 21 March 1994].

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### Majles Approves Articles of Health Insurance Bill

*LD1309122994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] In today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, which was chaired by Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the national health insurance bill received its second hearing. A number of its articles were approved. According to our correspondent's report, on the basis of Article 12 of this bill, the Supreme National Council for Insurance Services will be set up in the Health, Treatment, and Medical Training Ministry in order to expand and provide health insurance services, organize and create executive coordination, and supervise and measure quantitative and qualitative services provided by the health insurance.

According to this report, medical services will be provided to all those covered by this law not longer than five years after the final approval of the National Health Insurance Law, taking into account the priority given to the needy and to rural residents.

Also on the basis of Article Five of this bill, the National Health Insurance Organization will be administered as a state-owned company in order to provide health insurance services to the various strata of people. The company will be administered by the Health, Treatment, and Medical Training Ministry. [passage omitted]

During this session, the post, telegraph and telephone minister answered a question put to him by the deputy from Khomeyn, who asked him about the cost of building Payam Airport. The deputy from Khomeyn did not deem the answer convincing. This question is to be considered by the Majles Committee on constitutional Articles 88 and 90.

In today's Majles session, the credentials of Mr. Mohammad Hasan Qoli, from the Aligudarz constituency, were approved.

### New Oil Storage Tank on Kharg Island Described

*LD0909184794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1545 GMT 9 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Iran's biggest oil storage tank was built in Kharg Island. The storage tank is capable of holding 1.33 million barrels of oil.

The construction of the storage tank was among the projects which the former regime of the Shah intended to implement to store oil in Kharg Island. The construction of the project had been contracted to a foreign company during the Shah's time, but the building of the storage tank was halted at its initial stages during the Islamic revolution.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, due to the strategic position of Kharg Island and the imposed war with Iraq, the constructed parts of the storage tank were moved out of the region and transferred to the city of Esfahan.

In recent years, with the National Iranian Oil Company increasing its activities and its production and storage capability, the project for the building of this huge storage tank underwent new design and construction plans given the new situation and utilizing the capability and expertise of the domestic work force.

During a massive welding operation, covering an area of 35 km, parts of the body of the storage tank—which weighed 3,400 tonnes—were welded together using 60 tonnes of welding electrodes. Some 400,000 cubic meters of land were excavated and the area was prepared during the building of the storage tank which is a leap forward in the storage of oil products. This project shows the executive and technical capability of the domestic force in the construction of huge projects, which is of particular significance. No doubt such experiences direct the country's economy toward an increased technical capability on the basis of which advanced and huge projects can be built. Obviously the importance of that issue is no less than the role and the value of having such a storage tank for oil products. [passage omitted]

### IRGC Commander Notes 'Firm Presence' in Gulf

*LD1409202294 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corp (IRGC), Brigadier General Mohsen Reza'i, here Tuesday [13 September] emphasized firm presence of IRGC's naval force in the Persian Gulf waters.

Referring to the U.S attempts to create tension and unrest in the Persian Gulf region and upset unity and cohesion among the regional countries, Reza'i said that the IRGC's naval force should have a sound, strong and long-term strategy regarding the Persian Gulf region.

He made these remarks in the nation-wide annual seminar of officials in charge of IRGC's naval forces.

Also present at the meeting was Army's naval commander Rear-Admiral 'Ali Sham'khani who paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of the sacred defence, 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war on Iran.

He also urged the IRGC personnel to further increase their efficiency through education, training and acquiring modern technology.

## Pakistan

### Spokesman Views POST Article With 'Concern'

*BK1509093694 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 4*

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 14—Terming the charges made in the Washington Post article as concocted and maliciously designed to malign institutions vital to national

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security of Pakistan, a Foreign Office spokesman said here Wednesday [14 September]: "We take it with utmost concern and a serious inquiry will be conducted in this regard."

The spokesman, however, did not specify the composition level and terms of the proposed inquiry. He said that "we are glad to note that the former Prime Minister has himself denied the Washington Post report. He said that it was also intriguing that while the interview was conducted in May this year, it has been published now. It seems that the publication of this article is a part of some kind of smear campaign against Pakistan as is evident constantly appearing in the foreign media.

The spokesman said that the contents of the article especially alleging the involvement of the army and ISI [Interservices Intelligence] in drug trafficking are preposterous. He said in fact it is the ISI and the Army which have been playing a leading role in Pakistan's efforts to curb drug trafficking.

Recording the services rendered by the Pakistan Army in several government-sponsored campaigns to eliminate the drug menace in the country, the spokesman said that only last year, 2,500 acres of poppy cultivation was destroyed by anti-narcotics task force which is broadly operated by the Army personnel. He said that the ANTF [Anti-Narcotics Task Force] seized 3400 kg heroin and 400 kg of opium last year.

Dilating on the role played by the ISI in curbing the drug trafficking, the spokesman said that ISI has been providing the government information regarding the areas and methods of poppy- cultivation. It has also been identifying the people in drug business. He said that so far 15,000 drug traders have been arrested on the tip-off from the ISI.

Spelling out the Government's efforts to root out drugs from the society, he said that the government has not only introduced death penalty for drug trafficking, it has made a legislation to seize the properties of the drug dealers. He said that Pakistan has been actively participating in global efforts to eradicate drugs.

He said that only recently Pakistan concluded an agreement with Iran and India to keep a strict check on drug smuggling including the smuggling of the chemicals used in processing of heroin coming from India.

Kashmir: Expressing Pakistan's disappointment over India's rejection to the offer made by the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to mediate between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir dispute, the spokesman said that the Security General had made the offer in accordance with his responsibility under the UN charter. He said that for the last 45 years, India and Pakistan had been unable to resolve the issue bilaterally. He said that the UN charter which is reaffirmed in Simla Accord provides in Chapter 6 for various modalities under dispute can be resolved by the member states. These include negotiations, conciliation, mediation, arbitration and adjudication. Through these recognised procedures the countries locked in intractable disputes are enabled to resolve them with the assistance of a third party or by an impartial party such as UN Secretary General to achieve progress towards the resolution of these disputes.

He said that India has adopted a strange doctrine wherein it claims it will not allow anyone to intercede in the disputes with Pakistan and indeed with all its neighbours. He said that Indian position is contrary to the UN charter and the Pakistan hopes that New Delhi will review its decision and will accept the UN Secretary General's mediation offer.

Embassy Attack: The rocket explosion near Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was haphazard and the Embassy was not the target of the attack. The Foreign Office spokesman said, says an APP report.

Answering a question on the rocket explosion near Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul other day, he told journalists at weekly press briefing that Kabul had been experiencing such attacking off and on for the last several months. He said the Embassy itself was not the target of the attack. He said fortunately none of the Embassy staff was hurt in the blast.

Leghari: Referring to recent visit of President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari to Iran, he said Tehran had endorsed Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue and had clearly backed Kashmiris struggle for their right of self-determination. "We are very happy with the results of the tour," he added.

Replying to a query about the proposed gas pipeline to be laid between Pakistan and Iran, he said conducting joint feasibility study of the project.

To a supplementary on the possible extension of this pipeline to India, he said Delhi had not yet agreed to this project.

On a query about the reported concern expressed by spiritual leader of Iran Ayatollah Khamene'i about growing trend of sectarianism in Pakistan the spokesman said Pakistan was deadly against all sorts of extremism. "We condemn extremism and are trying our best to contain sectarianism," he added.

PM's tour: Responding to a querry about Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's on going visits to Morocco and Spain, he said Rabat was an important member of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] for its being the host to the next Islamic summit and would become Chairman of the Organisation for four years. In this context, he said the support of Rabat for us on Kashmir was vital.

On Spain, he said it had closet historical links with Muslim world and also an emerging economic power in Europe with which we had negligible economic and commercial links. He said since 1956 none of Pakistani

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leaders had visited Madrid. He said because of these reasons we should have close links with Spain.

"Results themselves would indicate the substance of these visits," he added."

### Sharif Claims Interview 'Concocted'

*BK1509130494 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Sep 94 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad—Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday [14 September] threatened to take legal action against all those involved in what he called a concocted interview carried by The Washington Post.

"What rationale can The Washington Post offer for damaging Pakistan's image through this mala fide interview," asked Nawaz Sharif at a news conference.

Holding the government responsible for the whole affair, Nawaz said: "It is a crude concoction on the part of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] to malign the armed forces."

Nawaz said the PPP government in 1972 had televised a film on the fall of Dacca only to degrade armed forces in the eyes of the people. "The PTV [Pakistan Television] projected The Washington Post story. What was it trying to project? Nothing, but only trying to further harm the military and create a wedge between the opposition and the army.

"This led me to conclude that the government is behind the story," he suspected. He said the story was engineered by the government. He again denied having given the interview to the "Post" or to any of its correspondents last year or this year.

Perhaps it was not a coincidence that the story was published in the face of the spectacular success of his "Karawan-e-Nijat" [campaign for deliverance] against the corrupt, incompetent and anti-state government which has lost its legitimacy to rule, he said. "This falsehood stems from the game plan prepared by the PPP government after our successful mass mobilisation."

The whole issue is being projected only to divert the attention of the people from the opposition's movement. He also questioned why the newspaper published the interview after five months.

Ms Bhutto has already conceded, he reminded, that she had helped Rajiv Gandhi suppress the Sikh insurgency. "We have to judge whether Ms Bhutto stands for Pakistan or India," said Nawaz. The connection of the PPP leadership with Indians and infamous RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] is an open secret, he alleged.

Nawaz recalled Ms Bhutto's interview to NBC wherein she had accused the army of controlling the nuclear switch. "Can there be any greater hostility towards the army?"

To a question, he said he used to meet journalists daily and he might have met Kamran Khan too, but he had never given any interview to him. "If he (Kamran) has any evidence of this interview, he should produce it," Nawaz said.

Mushahid Hussain, PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League] information secretary, endorsed that Nawaz never gave any interview to Kamran. He said his party has asked The Washington Post to conduct an enquiry into the affair as the story has also damaged the paper's reputation.

### Court Declares Northern Areas Part of Kashmir

*BK1509102494 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Sep 94 p 1*

[Article by Khizar Hayat Abbasi]

[Text] Muzaffaabad—The Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Supreme Court declared Wednesday [14 September] that the Northern Areas including Gilgit and Baltistan are part of Azad Jammu and Kashmir state. The court, however observed that there is no statutory provision under which it could direct the Government of Pakistan to hand over the Areas to the AJK government.

The judgement was announced as the court accepted two appeals filed by the Federation of Pakistan and the AJK government challenging the judgement of the high court about the Northern Areas.

The full bench of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court in a judgement on March 8, 1993 had declared that Northern Areas are part of the AJK. The court had directed the AJK government to immediately assume the administrative charge of the Areas and asked the Government of Pakistan to assist the AJK government in the task.

The judgement was challenged by the Federation of Pakistan on various grounds being without jurisdiction. The Azad Government had also challenged the judgement on the plea of jurisdiction.

In its detailed judgement spreading over 60 pages the Supreme Court held that the Northern Areas comprising Gilgit and Baltistan are a part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed on 14th of August 1947. The court said that the high court was right as this position has not even been denied by the Government of Pakistan either in the high court or before this court.

The court, however observed that the writ jurisdiction by the high court or for that matter the Supreme Court is exercisable only if a matter pertains to the affairs of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The court also expressed the view that the Northern Areas do not fall under the definition of the expression 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' as defined in Section 2 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act 1974.

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It was further observed that for exercising writ jurisdiction there must be a legal right which may be enforced by the court. In the instant case there is no statutory provision under which the Government of Pakistan could be directed in exercise of writ jurisdiction to hand over the control and administration of Northern Areas to Azad government of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the court observed.

The court comprised of Sardar Said Muhammad Khan, Chief Justice; Basharat Ahmad Shaikh and Chaudhry Muhammad Taj, judges.

Qazi Mohammad Jamil, Attorney General and Chaudhry Fazal-e-Hussain Advocate represented the Federation of Pakistan. Ghulam Mustafa Mughal Advocate assisted by Ishaque Hussain Kiyani represented the Azad government while Raja Muhammad Hanif Khan Advocate represented the respondents.

### U.S. Urged To 'Reassess' Kashmir Policies

*BK1409133894 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 14 Sep 94 p 10*

[Editorial: "The Interests of the Kashmiri People"]

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has reportedly welcomed the observations made by the US ambassador to India, Mr Frank Wisner, to the effect that the interests of the Kashmiri people must be taken into consideration in settling the 47-year-old dispute between Pakistan and India. At the same time he has made it clear that Pakistan does not share the apparent US enthusiasm for early elections in Indian-held Kashmir—a prospect welcomed by the ambassador in his remarks—and emphasised the need for a plebiscite in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. The ambassador's formulation, to the extent that it underscores the centrality of the interests of the Kashmiris and the need to ascertain their wishes, indicates his country's dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs. Pakistan can, with justification, read into this a measure of support for its view of the grave situation in Kashmir. However, the US ambassador's pointed observation that it was not up to his country to pick the device for testing the will of the Kashmiri people's is, as clearly, an endorsement of the Indian view that a plebiscite as mandated by the UN resolutions is no longer relevant and all that is required in Kashmir is the initiation of the political process and for elections to be held there. Of course India has maintained for some time now that the only obstacle in the way of this enterprise is "terrorism," supported by Pakistan. True, the US and probably much of the rest of the world no longer buy this line, if they ever did. That there is an indigenous and popular resistances movement in Kashmir which requires more than half a million Indian troops to suppress it is now fairly obvious to all concerned. And the real difficulty for India as far as the holding elections in Kashmir is concerned has to do with the refusal of the resistance movement led by the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) to participate in any such political exercise within the framework of the Indian union.

The US ambassador having made his observations virtually on the eve of the UN General Assembly session in which Pakistan will seek to raise the Kashmir issue appears to have done so in order to indicate his country's position for the benefit of all concerned. He has also made clear the US' lack of interest in meeting its obligations, of whatever name, within the framework of the UN resolutions while reaffirming its desire to ensure that some sort of a political arrangement is worked out to resolve the issue and ascertain the Kashmiris' will. Pakistan should obviously take a hard look at the implications of such a position on the part of the US. But the latter, too, may want to reassures its endorsement of India's proposed line of action in the light of ground reality. To even begin to argue that some kind of an alternative to a plebiscite in Kashmir is feasible would make sense only if India were to demonstrate through its actions an intent to resolve the issue through means other than violence and brutal repression of the Kashmiris. Neither the latter nor neutral international observers have found any evidence of this, so far. In such a situation elections in Indian-held Kashmir will be a farcical exercise having very little to do with ascertaining the of the people or, indeed, serving their interest. [sentence as published]

### Media Comment on President's Visit to Iran

### Confirms Ties 'Most Cordial'

*BK1409150094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94*

[Commentary by Mohammad Ashraf Ansari]

[Text] Pakistan-Iran relations have always been very cordial and based on understanding and friendly cooperation. Friendship between the two countries has not been eroded by various changes that have taken place over the years in the region or on wider international level. In critical times, each of the two received much-needed diplomatic and moral support from the other. Exchanges of visit between the two countries at the highest level have become a tradition, symbolizing their brotherly relations. Almost all governments in Pakistan and Iran have showed keen interest in arranging such visits to each other's country on priority basis. Changes in government never affected the depth of cordial relationship between the two countries.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari's visit to Iran has proved once again that Pakistan's relations with that country remain most cordial. During discussions, the Pakistani leader and his counterpart were of the view that bilateral relations between the two countries should be further boosted to meet new demands of the changing climate of international relations. Both Pakistan and Iran share concern over such burning regional issues as

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Kashmir, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. They are equally concerned over the problems relating to Bosnia and the Middle East, especially the question of continued Israeli occupation of al-Qods al-Sharif.

On Kashmir, the two presidents exchanged views and concluded that the oppression to which the people of Indian-held Kashmir were subjected remained a source of tension in the region. They agreed that the current movement in occupied Kashmir was aimed at securing the right of self-determination for the Kashmiris. They underlined the importance of finding a solution to the Kashmir problem in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. They called for an equitable political settlement in Afghanistan in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people. They reaffirmed the policy of noninterference being pursued by their two countries. They decided to work together and in close cooperation with the UN for promoting peace in Tajikistan. They condemned the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan in strong terms and demanded an end to the aggression.

President Leghari and his Iranian counterpart, President Rafsanjani, shared the opinion that the regional Economic Cooperation Organization—ECO—offered tremendous potential for mutually beneficial interaction among the member states, including Pakistan and Iran. They agreed to ensure effective implementation of various agreements reached with ECO's framework.

The two presidents exchanged detailed views on various aspects of bilateral relations. They were of the firm belief that no effort should be spared in further expanding them. The ongoing cooperation to set up an oil refinery in Pakistan and establish a multisupplier and multiconsumer gas pipeline was also reviewed. They also considered ways to promote bilateral trade. Both the leaders reaffirmed the resolve of their two countries to cooperate in controlling the drug menace.

In a nutshell, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari's just-concluded visit to Iran has been extremely useful in the sense that Pakistan and Iran were able to discuss vital issues of their mutual concern and expressed shared positions. The visit will no doubt help further cementing the deep-rooted friendship which serves regional and international peace.

### Highlights Need for Islamic Unity

*BK1509062094 Lahore JANG in Urdu 12 Sep 94 p 14*

[Editorial: "The Need for Unity and Integrity in the Ranks of the Islamic Community"]

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the Islamic countries should forge unity in their ranks to end the atrocities against Muslims in Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, Azerbaijan and other parts of the world. The president, currently on a three-day visit to Iran, said this during his meeting with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said that his visit to Iran will help boost wider economic cooperation between the two countries.

President Leghari went to Iran just after the conclusion of the seventh extraordinary conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers in Pakistan. It is gratifying to note that the need for unity among Islamic countries stressed by the president has also been realized by the foreign ministers who attended the Islamabad conference. The four resolutions adopted by the conference emphasized cooperation, unity, and integrity among Islamic countries in reference to Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, and Afghanistan and urged adoption of a common strategy on these issues. President Leghari has now repeated the same call for unity during his visit to Iran.

It is a fact that opponents of Muslims and anti-Islam forces are wholeheartedly organizing themselves against the Muslims on the pretext of opposing fundamentalism. At its meeting, the European Community indicated its desire to wipe the newly-independent Muslim state of Bosnia off the map of Europe. This is why all Western countries, including the United States, are silent over the brutal atrocities perpetrated against the Muslims of Bosnia. The attitude of the United Nations and all Western powers, including the United States, on the Kashmir issue is obvious. Western countries never do anything other than issue statements wherever a Muslim country or a Muslim minority is subjected to oppression. Following the defeat and disintegration of the Soviet Union, the Western media and intellectual circles have opened a front against Islam and Muslims. It is very unfortunate that despite this, the Muslim countries seem largely unaware and unconcerned about this situation.

Unity in the Islamic world, as has been stressed by President Leghari in Iran, is needed extremely urgently. If no attention is paid now to this urgent need, then the Islamic countries will become victims of heinous conspiracies of anti-Islam forces and have no other option but to lament. The other day, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati demanded the withdrawal of UN economic sanctions against Iraq and said that Iran wants to improve relations with Iraq. We feel that the spirit displayed by the Iranian foreign minister to a neighboring Islamic country despite their past bitterness should be cultivated by the entire Islamic world. When we talk about unity of the Islamic world, we should keep in mind that the differences and animosities which exist between some Muslim countries should be abolished, because these differences obstruct the path of unity and integrity and the development of strong ties among Islamic nations. Leaders of Islamic countries should realize this urgent need.

Disharmony among Islamic countries at a time when anti-Islam forces are organizing themselves against the Muslims might lead to heartbreaking tragedies for the Islamic countries. Unity among Islamic countries will,

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on the other hand, protect them from the conspiracies of anti-Islam forces. President Leghari has helped the Islamic world to be aware of the most urgent need of the hour. The Muslims have an effective and powerful forum in the ICO. This forum needs to be used to promote Islamic unity and integrity so that no Islamic country or Muslim minority anywhere feels abandoned or that no one is there to help.

## Sri Lanka

### Prime Minister Outlines Government's Economic Policy

*BK1409145894 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga has outlined her government's economic policy at a meeting with the business community in Colombo. This was organized by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. Addressing the gathering, the prime minister said that the government was committed to building a strong national economy with a market framework. The principal engine of growth is expected to be the private sector—both domestic and foreign. The role of the state is to provide an institutional framework that is wholly supportive of rapid private sector development. The government will pursue market-friendly policies which support rather than supplement market. The government's intervention will be limited to areas where markets fail to function effectively.

She added that nothing will be done to weaken market signals. There are no plans for the nationalization or expropriation of private property whether domestic or foreign. All bilateral invention protection agreements and relevant international conventions will be honored. No restrictions will be placed on the repatriation of dividends and capital. The foreign exchange liberalization measures will be continued and improved upon. Private foreign investment will be strongly encouraged through the provision of appropriate incentives. The Board of Investment will be restructured from an organization granting ad hoc privileges to one genuinely promoting foreign investment in a transparent manner. There will be no advance change in the labor policy relating to foreign investment. Its scope with the private sector is to be expanded by encouraging and providing the required facilities to enter into new areas of production in agriculture, industry, infrastructural development, and in the services sector. [sentence as heard]

The proposed National Development Council will be constituted with state and private sector labor representatives and professionals. The prime minister said the public investment would be needed to build the infrastructure. However, the resource requirements for the provision of adequate infrastructure investment efforts will have to be undertaken by the private sector. An important new goal of growth in the economy would be the development of an export-oriented services sector, exploiting the unique geographical [word indistinct] conferred on Sri Lanka by its location as the hub of potentially dynamic South Asian region.

Prime Minister Kumaratunga said that her government's decisionmaking is transparent and free of corruption, where everyone in public life is accountable for their action.

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